

Library Trends

*Current Trends in
National Libraries*

DAVID C. MEARNS, *Issue Editor*

July, 1955

Library Trends

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LIBRARY TRENDS, a quarterly journal in librarianship, provides a medium for evaluative recapitulation of current thought and practice, searching for those ideas and procedures which hold the greatest potentialities for the future.

Each issue is concerned with one aspect of librarianship. Each is planned with the assistance of an invited advisory editor. All articles are by invitation. Suggestions for future issues are welcomed and should be sent to the Managing Editor.

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Library Trends

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JULY, 1955

Current Trends in National Libraries

DAVID C. MEARNS, *Issue Editor*

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Introduction

WHEN THE PUBLICATIONS Board of *Library Trends* first projected a number to be devoted to recent and current developments affecting national libraries throughout the world, no explicit definition of the subject had been formulated. It was felt, however, that coverage should be as nearly world-wide as circumstances and available information might permit. It was hoped, moreover, that the text would be primarily concerned with changes and tendencies, and, particularly with their direction, rather than with descriptions or prevailing conditions, although it was realized that some attention should properly be given such considerations.

It was at first proposed that the issue should be composed of chapters thematically arranged, each written by a distinguished colleague overseas. This attractive plan was subsequently and reluctantly abandoned because of a tardy realization that the writers would be so besieged by one another for information and commentary that they would have no time to organize and prepare their own contributions.

The accepted alternative was to invite statements on specific subjects which might then be drawn together in such a way as to provide a conspectus of contemporary experience. For this purpose agreement was reached on fourteen headings designed to elucidate, by comparison and difference, the changes wrought by recent years. Obviously these headings would not, could not, have universal application; where they were without significant relevance, the contributor would be spared the drudgery of negative exposition.

The fourteen headings were:

1. Current concepts of the place of the national library in national life and policy and of its duty to the nation's people.
2. The effects on the library of postwar legislation and governmental decree, as well as the effects (limiting or otherwise) of its own charter, statutes and regulations.
3. Modifications of the financial support of the library.
4. New construction, remodeling, or other changes in the library's physical plant and equipment.
5. The library's response to conditions abroad.
6. Altered accents on acquisitions and acquisitions policy.
7. Notable additions to the collections.

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8. Services recently initiated or in prospect.
9. Recent bibliographical and cataloging undertakings.
10. Present participation in national and international cultural and intellectual programs.
11. Observations on the state of the librarian's craft, resulting from foreign travel.
12. Personnel and staffing problems and the causes thereof.
13. The relations of the library to other libraries and research institutions.
14. Recent trends in publishing.

Accordingly, these were transmitted to the directors of national libraries throughout the accessible globe, together with an earnest petition for collaboration. The responses, although by no means unanimous, have been generous and extremely gratifying. To all of those who have so magnificently cooperated go the thanks of the Publications Board and this compiler.

It should be clearly understood that this number is the work of many hands, and many minds, and many hearts. Its co-authors are:

Frank C. Francis, Keeper, Department of Printed Books, The British Museum, London.

Thomas Parry, Librarian, The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

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Reginald Harrison Hill, Librarian, The National Central Library, London.

Douglas H. Varley, Secretary and Chief Librarian, South African Public Library, (Suid-Afrikaanse Openbare Biblioteek), Cape Town.

In these pages the collaborators speak for themselves. Their statements, freed from the perils of interpretation and recasting, may therefore be assumed to be authentic. The only exceptions to this rule are those rare instances where the replies were written in languages other than English, and had, therefore, to be translated. To each and everyone who has made possible this compilation go the grateful acknowledgments of the editor.

The reader may question the absence of references to the Library of Congress. An explanatory note on this library will be found in the closing pages of this issue.

Place of the National Library

CURRENT Concepts of the Place of
the National Library in National Life
and Policy and of Its Duty to the Na-
tion's People.

The British Museum

It is by no means easy to give a direct answer on this point. The position of the great general national library vis a vis the many new libraries and new types of library and information centers created during the last 20 years is at present being worked out, and it is too soon, as yet, to say how this relationship will ultimately be developed.

There has been a great change in the concept of national work in the last few years, and the idea of one center which should contain the main collections on every subject has been very substantially modified. The reasons for this are:

1. The most articulate and dominating section of library users tends at the present time to be scientific and technological rather than humanistic; the last class, the most assiduous, and in many ways the greatest users of library material, need to use a national library as their research laboratory and are happy to see in it as comprehensive a collection of works bearing on their own subjects as possible, whereas the other group has no interest in the libraries as such but desire to use them for specific pieces of information.
2. The demands for information may be so detailed and may require so speedy and individual a service that they cannot be met by a large, and possibly, therefore, cumbersome general library.
3. The search for material and its transmission has very often to be done without its being asked for, again a service outside the scope of the large general library.
4. The employment of expert staff versed in the literature of individual and often very small subjects is not possible for the large general library.
5. There is a demand for library information service locally rather than at a remote center.

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On the other hand, many of the traditional functions of the national library continue to be as important as ever: it is usually the depository for all the national literature. It has funds and staff for the purchase of representative literature of value from all parts of the world; it has capacity for large storage and can undertake to preserve its material indefinitely; it covers the subjects which are neglected by all the specialist ad hoc libraries; it has great historical collections as well as current ones and permits the reader to place books on widely different subjects side by side for study and comparison; it has the standing and authority which enable it to withstand changes of fashion and variations in public interest; it has the authority to bring about coordination and cooperation where this is needed; it is usually the one library which has a statutory duty to maintain its collections indefinitely for the public advantage and the public service.

It seems certain that the national library must continue as at present, and must maintain the width and depth of its acquisitions policy and the authority of its collections. It is equally true, however, that it should feel itself to be supported at various levels by the local public libraries for recreational reading and instruction and first stage research; by research and special libraries for detailed work on technical and highly specialized subjects and by a carefully thought out scheme of interlibrary lending and cooperation. The tendency to regard certain subjects as outside its competence to deal with, usually scientific and technical subjects, should be checked and special sections of the library to deal with these subjects created and staffed with fully qualified persons. The staff of such sections as find it necessary to offer a quick and detailed reference service should be equipped to do so, but this development should be coordinated as carefully as possible with existing services both local and special. Collaboration between these various bodies can be mutually advantageous and should be designed towards this end.

Unfortunately, older national libraries, which have grown up under different circumstances from the present, can only realize such changes after a considerable period or when some exceptional opportunity, e.g. the transfer to new quarters, arises, hence the present somewhat transitional period and the apparent tardiness with which some of the national libraries have responded to the vociferous requests for more elaborate service from many quarters.

It is equally clear that all forms of rigidity in library organization should be avoided, because any such rigidity tends to interfere with the library service and creates dissatisfaction among the users.

The National Library of Wales

A principal aim is to maintain a close contact between the Library and the people of Wales, not only scholars and research workers but the ordinary people as well, because it is only thus that it is possible to encourage Welsh men and women to send material for safe keeping to the Library rather than destroy it. With this end in view lectures on the Library and its work have been delivered at various centers throughout the country. Exhibitions of books are periodically arranged in the Library and these are sometimes loaned to municipal and other libraries. Three exhibitions of paintings were held during the summer and these attracted a large number of visitors. The Library has held exhibitions of contemporary Irish, Scottish, English, as well as of Welsh art in its gallery. Parties, especially of school children, are encouraged to visit the Library and are shown around the various departments. Books are supplied to sanatoria throughout the country.

Leabharlann Naisiunta na hEireann (National Library of Ireland)

The national library of a country has two main functions. It must collect, preserve, and make available all the recorded information relating to the country for the use of its own nationals and inquirers elsewhere. It must also collect and make available a selection from the information recorded on all subjects in other countries which is likely to prove of interest or value to its own nationals.

A national library does not exist to collect books or manuscripts. It collects books and manuscripts because they record information. Recorded information may also be on clay tablets, on microfilm or motion picture films, on magnetic tape, on photographs, and in various other forms. All these kinds of recorded information are, therefore, within the scope of a national library.

The recorded information is collected to be used by this and by succeeding generations. It must therefore be preserved, and at the same time be made available to those who wish to use it. In so far as a national library deals with the recorded information of its own country there is no limit in strict theory imposed on the collecting by the triviality or ephemeral nature of the material collected. Such limits are imposed when it makes the selection from the material of other countries. No limits should be imposed on those of its citizens who may wish to use its facilities other than that they should come to seek information, not merely to read for recreation.

These guiding principles should determine the general scope and

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functions of a national library and its selection of material, its system of cataloging, its rules as to admission of readers, its relations with other libraries and archives both in the country and outside it. All its administrative and policy decisions should be based on these principles.

While a national library has the duty to discharge these two functions, it can only do so by cooperating with the other libraries and archives in the country. This is necessary because much of the recorded information relating to the country will be in other libraries and archives and in private custody and also because the task would be impossibly expensive if attempted by one institution alone. Specialist libraries can help to carry the burden of the national library in many fields especially in the sciences. When these principles are put into practice the national library becomes to some extent part of a network of cooperating libraries and institutions which are sharing its tasks, the national library being the central and main force in collecting recorded information on non-national specialist fields which are not adequately covered by other institutions.

From this it follows that the national library must know what fields of information are covered by other libraries and archives and to what extent the information in these institutions is available to those who may wish to use it. This makes the national library the obvious center for union catalogs and the center from which the voluntary cooperation of other libraries and archives in the acquisition of new material should be coordinated. There is, as a corollary, the further duty of copying where possible on microfilm or otherwise all recorded information relating to the country which is not accessible to those who need it, either because it is in private custody or in a foreign library or archives, or in a library at home which has no prospect of being able to catalog it, or cannot make it readily available.

While the general principles are the same in all countries, it is clear that in very large countries, the degree to which the national library must depend on other institutions to help it to fulfill with them the over-all task will be very much greater than in smaller countries.

In the primary task of collecting national recorded information, the national library should assist the library of a smaller state within the state or of a province or county within the state to build up a local collection for the local division on the same lines as the national library does for the whole country so that the sum of all these local collections form where they are unique a contribution to, and where they are not unique a duplication of the collected information in the

national library. There must be, of course, a flow and return of bibliographical exchange of information between these local collections and the central collection if the interests of both are to be promoted. As has been already pointed out, the national library as the central source of information must be able to guide inquirers to the local source when the information there is unique as is generally the case with manuscript as distinct from printed collections.

Osterreichische Nationalbibliothek, Austria

In almost every country there is a library which is distinguished beyond all other libraries and is designated as a national library, even when not so named. The origins of a national library may differ. Often it had once been the library on a prince's estate which had gradually assumed the function of a national library; in other cases it was founded for its national purpose. The most important duties of a national library may be stated as follows:

1. The maintenance of a comprehensive collection of national writings, acquired as far as possible through copyright deposit either as required by law or by the voluntary gift of their authors.
2. The issuance of a national bibliography which contains all the literature written either about a country or by the nationals of a country.
3. The administration of international interlibrary loans.
4. The training of librarians in an affiliated library school.
5. The publication of catalogs (general, special, serial, etc.).
6. The printing of catalog cards for other libraries of the country.
7. The compilation of bibliographies of reference value, the preparation of indices, and the maintenance of a national union catalog.
8. The organization of international book exchange channels.
9. The public utilization of duplicates.
10. The development of technical standards for other libraries in the country, including binding, printing, restoration, photoduplication, and microfilm reproduction.
11. The collection of such specialized material as manuscripts, incunables, books for the blind, dramatic compositions, engravings, medals, music scores, cinematic films, photographs, sound recordings, and coins; unless these materials are already collected in other institutions or museums.

These responsibilities, as enumerated above, give only a microscopic picture of the role of the national library in national life. A national

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library does not necessarily have to assume all of them, neither must it be the largest library in the country, nor be the resort of the greatest number of readers, but it must fulfill a special social function in the country and symbolize outstanding library service.

Bibliothèque Nationale, France

The Bibliothèque Nationale is the custodian of an important part of the intellectual patrimony of the nation, established by the entire production of the French press, books, periodicals, prints, posters, catalogs, and musical scores, which are sent to the library because it is the legally established depository, and by its precious collections of manuscripts, incunables, rare books, and bindings which are acquired by gift, bequest or purchase.

By reason of the encyclopedic character which marked the collections during preceding centuries, the Bibliothèque Nationale has taken care to develop its resources in all the branches of knowledge, at least in those which are concerned with works of synthesis and general culture. In the field of the social sciences, and primarily in literature and history, the library strives to acquire all foreign reference works and studies, but, in the domain of pure and applied science and technology it now directs the seekers to special libraries or to documentation centers.

The major duty of conserving the nation's intellectual patrimony, which devolves upon the Bibliothèque Nationale, prohibits it from admitting the general public. Its role is that of a scholarly library, reserved for those workers whose researches possess an interest for culture. This duty is also the reason why the Bibliothèque Nationale cannot be a lending library. However, since the city of Paris does not provide a large library of general culture, accessible to everyone, the Bibliothèque Nationale seeks to admit for a limited period, readers who cannot be satisfied upon a specific point from the resources of the municipal public libraries.

At the same time, the richness of its French collections makes the Bibliothèque Nationale a peerless bibliographic center for national bibliography (see page 65) whether it be in the realm of the history of the book in manuscript or print, of the graphic arts, of cartography, of numismatics, or of musicology (see page 12). At the heart of the Bibliothèque Nationale centers of learned research have been established which play a national part, even sometimes extending to international cooperation.

The great French center for research in literature and modern his-

tory is naturally the department of printed books, by reason of the abundance of its literary series, and the properly historic character of certain of its collections. But also, around it, in all sectors of the Library, centers of specialized research are developing, workshops of research wherein beyond the usual tasks of classification, cataloging, and service, all sorts of scientific works are prepared.

For example, the national center for the history of the book is the *Réserve* of printed books, thanks to the richness of its collections, and to the works of investigation and bibliographic research which are there executed, both on the ancient and on the modern book. The national Committee on the French Illustrated Book has its headquarters there.

The national center of studies of the literature and history of the Middle Ages is the manuscript room, because of its collection of ancient French manuscripts; it is also the center of studies of medieval painting, due to its collection of illuminated manuscripts, beside which the treasures at the Arsenal must also be cited. Again, its rich collections of oriental printed books and manuscripts and the scholarly apparatus developed for their use make the oriental section of the manuscript room of the Bibliothèque Nationale one of the centers of orientalism in Paris.

One of the centers of geographical studies in France is the department of maps and plans which extends beyond territorial limits, since it was here that the *Bibliographies Cartographique Internationale* was worked out, starting from the year 1946, and enlarging the *Bibliographie Cartographique Française* established during the war. Here are gathered the elements of an international catalog of ancient maps, as well as working instruments valuable to cartographic science.

The headquarters of the Association Internationale des Bibliothèques Musicales are in the Department of Music; the varied tasks of that Association, founded in 1951 (development of cataloging rules, the preparation of specialized international indices, etc.) tend in every way to facilitate the work of musicologists and musicians. Also, the center of French numismatic studies is the Cabinet des Médailles. Its staff, trained in the science, play an active role in national and international projects, in various commissions and societies in particular, in the Société Française de Numismatique, which since 1945 has had its library and headquarters in the library's Cabinet des Médailles. They also assist in teaching numismatics through courses in the Ecole du Louvre and in the Ecole des Hautes Études, as well as holding conferences. Other activities of the Cabinet des Médailles

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include work in the scientific analysis of coins, and extend to the inventorying of provincial collections and to the examination of monetary discoveries made on French territory.

It can be said that the French museum of engraving is the Cabinet des Estampes, which, in its own workroom, organizes small and constantly changing exhibitions; in the Mansart gallery, mounts exhibits of engravings of large dimensions, and, further, provides enthusiasts of iconography with numerous exhibitions thus extending its service to a very large public; it is the headquarters of the Comité Nationale de la Gravure Française; its curators play an active role in teaching the history of engraving, e.g. at the École du Louvre. It is one of the great French centers of pictorial documentation, and takes an important part in the work of the Comité de Coordination de la Documentation par l'Image.

Finally, the exhibitions of the Library, exhibitions of varied character, in which all departments are called upon to participate, quicken opinion and place within public reach, in a pleasant and facile manner, some of the results of the learned work which is pursued in the above-mentioned centers. Also, the Bibliothèque Nationale is not infrequently opened to cultural groups for general tours of its departments.

A detailed account of the progress, status, and activity of France's national library in the years immediately following World War II is given in a full report covering the years 1945-1951 presented to the Minister of Education rendered by the administrator-general of the Bibliothèque Nationale.¹

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Florence

This National Central Library, like the National Library in Rome, discharges the following duties:

1. To collect and preserve in order everything which is published in Italy and which is received through the operations of the copyright law.
2. To enrich the literary and scientific activities by making fully available the history of Italian thought.
3. To acquire important foreign works which treat of the history and the scientific, literary, and artistic achievements of Italy.
4. To represent foreign culture in the collections to the widest extent possible.

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Rome

The Biblioteca Nazionale collects all Italian publications, both those that are acquired by copyright deposit and those that appear abroad. Foreign works are selected on the basis of the disciplines represented, with especial emphasis on the humanities. In addition, an effort is made to secure foreign materials which relate in any way to Italy. A special division of general culture was created in 1930, for which new books attractive to the less educated public and to younger readers are chosen.

Bibliothèque Nationale, Luxembourg

The character of the Bibliothèque Nationale entitles it to perform an official mission comparable to, and identical with, other national libraries. It is the only great scientific library in the Grand Duchy and its primary duties are two-fold:

1. It must place at the disposal of its readers a considerable selection of the literary and scientific production of the world.
2. It must collect and treasure all Luxemburgensia (both the imprints of the Grand Duchy and foreign works relating to the nation).

During World War II the collections of the former Bibliothèque Pédagogique and the Bibliothèque Professionnelle were added to the collections of the Bibliothèque Nationale. This enlargement of resources has led to an expanded acquisitions program.

Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Netherlands

There is not, in the Netherlands, a national library in the sense of either a library aiming to have as full a collection as possible of Dutch manuscripts and printed books, or a library aiming to have a full and representative collection in every field of human knowledge.

This is a result of the smallness of the country and its linguistic area. There is no law of copyright since, besides bringing in the chaff with the corn, this would only supply a fraction of the reading requirements of the Dutch library public, and the concentration in Western Holland of general and specialized libraries in every field at short distances from one another, coupled with the high development of the inter-library loans system, means that the need for a national library on the above lines is not felt. If, however, the term is applied to the Library which has the central and coordinating position in the Dutch library system, it is undoubtedly the Royal Library at The Hague which

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qualifies. This Library limits itself to the humanities, as far as modern works are concerned, but it has a very valuable collection of older printed books and manuscripts, both Dutch and foreign, and it maintains the union catalogs on which the interlibrary loans system largely depends. Also, it lends its books all over the country by post. It is, however, distinctly a scholarly library: it buys no popular literature except to illustrate trends, and post-1920 fiction can only be borrowed with a special permit for research purposes.

As a result of this situation, current concepts of the place and function of the national library, so far as they are not individual and pious wishes, are largely concerned with aspects of interlibrary cooperation (see page 90). The central position of the Royal Library is also illustrated by the following facts: (1) The Netherlands International Exchange Bureau forms a department of the Library. (2) The Library becomes more and more a documentation center for the ministries and other government bureaus in The Hague. (3) A special department of the Library is the Museum Meermannno-Westreenianum, the director of which is the royal librarian. The main collections of this Museum are manuscripts and incunabula and it is now going to be transformed into a national book museum, which gives the Royal Library an opportunity to organize alternating exhibitions of its own treasures in the fields of manuscripts, bindings, illustrated books, modern typography, etc. (4) The royal librarian is at the same time director of a recently established museum and documentation center of Dutch literature in The Hague, which as a museum specializes in the field of manuscripts and letters of modern Dutch authors and as a documentation center publishes bibliographies on cards. (5) The royal librarian is the chairman of the Rijkscommissie van Advies in zake het Bibliotheekwezen (State Advisory Committee on Librarianship).

Kungl. Biblioteket, Sweden

The Stockholm Royal Library² which is an independent government institution under the Ministry of Education has two main functions:

1. It is the national library of Sweden. As such it endeavors to collect all materials printed in Sweden as well as all publications appearing abroad that are of Swedish interest. Complete coverage of the Swedish language publications of Finland and the Swedish groups in America is sought. Since the 17th century the Library has received by legal deposit from the printers a copy of every publication printed

in Sweden, including newspapers, pamphlets, maps, etc. It should be noted, however, that the privilege of legal deposit is also enjoyed by the university libraries of Uppsala, Lund and Göteborg, and recently, through the intermediary of the Ministry of Justice, by the new research library for North Sweden in Umeå, although traditionally these libraries do not emphasize the Swedish collection to the same extent as the Royal Library.

Another function of national scope handled by the Royal Library is the compilation of the Swedish National Bibliography (*Svensk Bokförteckning*) and the Annual Union Catalog. The director of the Royal Library exercises a certain measure of supervision over the major provincial libraries and is regularly consulted by the government in matters affecting the development of the national library system. Although not an exchange bureau in the continental sense of the word, the Library handles the distribution to other Swedish libraries of incoming exchange shipments from foreign centers, including the International Exchange Service at Smithsonian Institution.

2. The Royal Library is the capital's principal research and reference library in the humanities, the theological and social sciences, and in certain branches of law. Under an agreement with the University of Stockholm in December, 1953, it is acting as the main library of the University in the fields listed above, at the graduate and faculty level.

Schweizerische Landesbibliothek, Switzerland

In a federative country like Switzerland, where cultural affairs belong strictly to the cantons, and where a sufficient number of cantonal and communal libraries are already catering to the particular needs of their population, according to their language, creed and other characteristics, there is neither the need for, nor the possibility of, a general national library. What is wanted is a library where one can study, without traveling from library to library, every aspect of the national life. The Schweizerische Landesbibliothek has, therefore, been given the assignment to be as complete as possible in its holdings of Helvetica, collecting foreign publications only if they are of interest to the country by reason of their authors or their contents. Its collections thus form the basis of national bibliographies, whether general, as in the case of the *Livre Suisse*, or special, as in the case of *Bibliographia Scientiae Naturalis Helvetica* and others. It is one of the outstanding duties to publish such bibliographies within the limits of the material possibilities, and of course in consideration of the real needs of the country. Moreover, any question asked on the spot, or by letter or

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telephone is answered without charge, very often in the form of rather extensive bibliographies. The Library has thus become a most important national bibliographic center, supplying information all over the country to everyone who needs it, without distinction. This service has considerably extended since the war, as obviously more and more people, and especially research workers, have shifted over to the Library the bibliographical part of their work which formerly they used to perform for themselves. In addition, books are sent free of charge to every applicant over fifteen years of age.

Milli Kütüphane, Ankara

Founded in 1948, the Milli Kütüphane seeks (1) to help and encourage research in all fields; (2) to act in a general way as a center of culture in a place where all spiritual matters are promoted; (3) to assemble and prepare for use all Turkish publications; (4) to gather the most important foreign works useful to Turkish scholars; and (5) to preserve for future generations the literature of Turkey.

The Jewish National and University Library, Israel

The history of the Jewish National and University Library has brought about a unique situation with respect to the theoretical basis of its functions and policies. It was founded in 1892 by the B'nai B'rith Lodge of Jerusalem. In 1920, the World Zionist Organization assumed responsibility for constituting this library as one for the Jewish people as a whole. With the establishment of the Hebrew University in 1925, the library was placed under its auspices and supported by its funds, fulfilling a three-fold function: (1) it was the library that gathered together all material concerning Jewish life, history, and literature as a central collection for the Jewish people; (2) the library of the Hebrew University; and (3) the library of the population of Palestine.

When the State of Israel was established in 1948 the third function was transformed into that of serving as a central national library of the new state, with this distinction from most national libraries, that it is not a governmental institution. It is financed by the Hebrew University which, in turn, receives part of its support from the Jewish Agency and part from private contributions. Literature in all branches of public administration and social science has had to be provided and publications in various fields have been required to assist the many development projects, and to solve the special problems created by large numbers of new immigrants of various backgrounds.

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Among its over 800,000 volumes the Jewish National and University Library possesses one of the largest collections of Judaica and Hebraica in the world. Great efforts have been made in the last few years to salvage and to bring to Israel remnants, in hundreds of thousands, of Jewish books in Europe. The Jewish National and University Library is performing an important national duty by acting as trustee, central depot, and distributing agent for these salvaged volumes. The Library has had also to develop new departments in conjunction with four new university faculties established in the last five years: medicine, law, the social sciences, and agriculture.

The National Diet Library, Japan

The National Diet Library is the only national library, established in accordance with the National Diet Library Law, which regulates the place occupied by the library in national life and its duty to the people. According to the Law, the primary duty of the Library is to perform the following three library services: to the Diet, to the executive and judicial branches of the government, and to the general public.

As to the third function, the Law provides that insofar as its primary duty to the Diet and to the executive and judicial branches permit, service to the general public shall be rendered to the fullest extent possible. Thus the collections are made available for use and study either in the building, or through interlibrary loan, or by reproduction and transcription, or by exhibits; subject to rules and regulations made by the chief librarian, who is directed also to provide such other services as he may, according to circumstances, find necessary to the improvement of the library system and its development generally.

By all appropriate means, prefectural and other local assemblies, government officials and librarians elsewhere are assisted in the organization of libraries and in the extension of library service. Printed catalog cards and other publications are made available to libraries and individuals at prices fixed by the chief librarian. Plans are being formulated for the establishment of a union catalog of the library resources of Japan, and for such other catalogs and lists as may be necessary to ensure the coordinated usefulness of Japanese libraries.

In order to discharge its responsibilities the National Diet Library is conducting twenty-six branch libraries in the executive and judicial branches of the government, and four branch libraries under its direct administration including the Ueno Library, which had been popular among the people as the former national library, and the Seikado

Place of the National Library

Bunko, the Toyo Bunko, and the Okurayama Cultural Science Library, famous for their special collections.

The General Assembly Library, New Zealand

The question of the functions of a national library in New Zealand has been a live issue during the past two or three years. The New Zealand Library Association has a committee which has been investigating the problem. The interest has been stimulated chiefly by the lack of proper accommodation of two of the three libraries which will have to be eventually integrated to form the new national library.

It might be as well to explain here that the three libraries are: the General Assembly Library, the oldest and the library of Parliament; the Alexander Turnbull Library, the nucleus of which was given to the New Zealand people by Turnbull in 1918, and the National Library Service which is chiefly interested in the lending functions of a national library, though it acts as a coordinating body for much bibliographical work.

Various articles have appeared recently in *New Zealand Libraries* on the subject particularly those by Stuart Perry,³ W. S. Wauchop⁴ and J. D. Wilson.⁵ Recently the New Zealand Library Association through its President H. W. Bacon⁶ has written to the Prime Minister as follows in part:

1. Elements of a national library exist in the stock and services now provided by the three Wellington state libraries, the General Assembly Library, the Alexander Turnbull Library and the National Library Service.
2. The most obvious need is for a national library building in which all or a major part of these existing collections can be housed adequately and safely and the necessary services performed efficiently.
3. To this end the immediate setting aside of a suitable centrally situated site for the erection of such a building is considered a matter of urgency.
4. While detailed proposals regarding the extent to which the existing state libraries would be included and their consequential administrative relationship are naturally not now possible, there are some obvious comments on their present housing needs which bear specifically on the need for such a building.
5. A Prime Minister's Consultative Committee representative of such bodies as the Departments at present administratively responsible for the three state libraries, the New Zealand Library Association and the University of New Zealand should be appointed to make recommendations on specific aspects of the problem.

While . . . we have in New Zealand no national library, many of the functions of such are being performed by the three existing state libraries. . . .

That our national library needs are being met in part serves only to highlight the unsatisfactory accommodation situation of two of the three institutions concerned. In the case of the Alexander Turnbull Library and the National Library Service, the present urgent need for relief is such that it can scarcely await the erection of a national library building in the indeterminate future.

In the case of the Alexander Turnbull Library it is well known that the planned strengthening and reconstruction of the existing building will not permit the satisfactory housing even of the existing collections which amount to about 125,000 volumes. It is understood that no provision at all has so far been made for growth. Staff working conditions, now unsafe, must always be unsatisfactory. Therefore, whatever short term provision is made to meet this situation, it would appear to be a logical provision to make a realistic allowance in a national library building for accommodation for this collection.

The National Library Service is committed more deeply to the provision of national lending and bibliographical services than are the other two libraries. Its headquarters are two condemned houses in Sydney Street East. The School Library Service division and additional storage for the headquarters collection occupy four other points within the city. Except for the safety factor, working conditions are even poorer than in the Alexander Turnbull Library. The total stock of the Service, apart from the School Division, amounts to over 400,000 volumes of which approximately 100,000 are housed in Wellington under shocking conditions. There is no possible provision for expansion, and to meet the situation costly and inefficient expedients of storing or shelving stock elsewhere in the city or in other centres have to be resorted to.

The General Assembly Library, as the oldest of the three, and the library of Parliament, has the strongest commitments to its present site and organization. It is also the most fortunate so far as accommodation is concerned. . . . Nevertheless, at the time when the national library building is being planned the extent to which the General Assembly Library could be included would need careful study. The library has a collection of approximately 225,000 volumes.

In planning a suitable building, . . . full provision should be made for the inclusion of the Dominion Archives. Whether the Archives should form an administrative part of the National Library or should remain separate is a point for further consideration, but the building itself should be planned to include them. . . .

The rate of library growth is a problem which has caused much research and concern in various parts of the world. . . . It would be

Place of the National Library

reasonable to expect an immediate transfer to the national library building of 500,000 volumes and to allow therefore in its construction for the housing of 1,000,000 books, with provision for later additions to the building as necessary.

Bibliothèque Générale de Tunisia

The Bibliothèque Générale plays the role of national library in Tunisia, in the sense that its function, personnel, and resources derive from the Direction of Public Instruction, the head of which holds ministerial rank in the government, and because it is the only legal deposit in Tunisia for all Arabic or French publications issued in the country. Moreover, it takes the part of a central lending library, sending books to the interior of the nation and to libraries abroad upon request.

The library contains 250,000 volumes, of which 35,000 are printed in oriental, predominantly Arabic languages, and 3,500 oriental manuscripts. There are two reading rooms and a loan service.

Biblioteca Nacional, Argentina

The Biblioteca Nacional is the most important of all the country's libraries by reason of its age, the size of its collections, and the number of its readers.

Biblioteca Nacional, Cuba

The Biblioteca Nacional occupies a distinguished place in national life, contributing to the enlargement of the general culture of the citizenry through furnishing the necessary books.

Biblioteca Nacional, Guatemala

The establishment of a national library was one of the most pressing needs of the country, since the cultural institutions through which the lower classes could increase their knowledge were restricted to the Universidad Pontificia de San Carlos Borromeo, and in the monasteries, as well as in the important library in the Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País. It was therefore one of the objectives of the program of the leaders of the Liberal Revolution of 1871, Granados and Barrios, to make available to working people free education provided by the state. Upon the suppression of monastic and religious orders during that revolution, their libraries and archives were transferred to the library of the university, which was nationalized.

The National Library was founded on October 18th, 1879. In it were assembled the library of the university, the library of the Amigos del

LIBRARY TRENDS

País and the libraries of the suppressed religious houses. These were transferred to one of the rooms in the National Assembly building on April 25th, 1881, in order to improve public access. After the earthquakes of 1917-1918, which destroyed almost all of the capital city, the surviving collections of the National Library were transferred to the Engineering School of the National University, and in 1925 to the School of Law. Since 1940, a National Library and a National Archives have been under construction. But so far only the basement and parts of the first floor have been completed.

Since the fall of pro-communist President Arbenz, the number of readers has increased, probably because the present national librarian is a graduate librarian who has improved the organization of the technical services and provided a more effective distribution of personnel. The country's intellectuals are cooperating in the solution of problems. Thus, while prior to 1950, the Library's hours of opening were from 9 a.m. to 12 m., and from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., but the requirements of readers forced a change of schedule. Public service is now given from 8 a.m. to 12 m., and from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Fridays; on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 12 m.; on Sundays the Library is closed.

The thirty-seven state libraries depend on the National Library for their organization and bibliography. They are affiliated with workingmen's societies. The government makes them a monthly appropriation of from twenty to fifty quetzales (\$20 to \$50). The libraries of elementary, secondary, and technical schools are under the direction of the National Library. A bookmobile, purchased from the Gertenslager Company, of Wooster, Ohio, recently traveled two hundred and fifty miles through the western part of the country. In the capital, it has served the Military Hospital, the Polytechnic School, the National School of Agriculture, the Industrial Institute, and the University Press.

The Biblioteca Nacional has become a cultural center for officially sponsored programs. Lectures are delivered there by foreign and Guatemalan intellectuals.

Biblioteca Nacional, Peru

The principle is accepted that whereas the primary duty of a public library is to make books accessible to the general reader, the National Library must serve a two-fold function: (1) to provide research materials to learned readers, such as university professors and distinguished scholars; and (2) at the same time to conserve the cultural heritage for the benefit of successive generations. The distinction is

Place of the National Library

obvious, but in countries like Peru it is a theory rather than a practice, because the development of libraries and a library system are only at the initial stage. Indeed, in such countries, the national library is obliged to act also as a public library.

This leads to a conflict of purposes. It is often necessary to issue to careless readers books which, if they are damaged, can only be replaced with difficulty. In such instances the service of a public library jeopardizes the proper function of a national library. At the same time, if the national library, in order to preserve its collections, fails adequately to serve the general reader, the objective of the public library is frustrated by submission to the concept of a national library. In the Peruvian Biblioteca Nacional the collision of the two types of libraries is keenly felt. It is mitigated by trying to acquire a sufficient number of copies to meet the requests of the general public, and to reserve at least one for future use, as a sacred deposit of Peruviana.

Biblioteca Nacional, El Salvador

The Biblioteca Nacional is the most important bibliographic center in El Salvador, consequently, all cultural programs relating to books, such as celebrations, exhibitions, lectures, and the observance of book weeks, are committed to it for execution. As an agency of the Ministry of Culture, the Library's duties toward the town and the public generally are essentially those of a university insofar as intellectual activities are concerned.

South African Public Library, Cape Town

In the *Report of the Inter-departmental Committee on the libraries of the Union of South Africa, 1937*,⁷ it was stated that

"The South African Public Library, Cape Town, and the State Library, Pretoria, are recognized as national libraries, and, besides being given copyright privileges, are subsidized by the Union Government."

The Report goes on to recommend that

"By its history, the position which it occupies amongst the libraries of the country, and its environment, the South African Public Library . . . should be pre-eminently the Reference Library of South Africa and the recognized repository of its literary treasures."

The Committee further recommended that

"To enable the State Library and the South African Public Library to discharge their duties as national libraries, they will have to be reorganized and their staffs considerably enlarged. Their activities as local lending libraries which . . . tend to swamp the energies of their

LIBRARY TRENDS

staffs, should be administered and financed separately from those pertaining to their functions as national libraries."

To serve with reasonable efficiency as a 'Central Library' for the Union, the State Library will require a much larger income than that placed at its disposal by the Carnegie Corporation to enlarge and keep up to date its stock of specialist and other expensive books. The building in which the South African Public Library is housed, is according to modern standards, unsuitable for its purpose and compares very unfavorably, both as regards arrangement and accommodation, with library buildings erected elsewhere in the Union within recent years. For a library containing so many valuable and irreplaceable manuscripts and books, it is insufficiently protected against fire. The future of the library is to some extent bound up with that of the other libraries of the Cape. It should play a leading part in bringing about the co-ordination of the various collections which make up the great wealth of literature (over 530,000 volumes) which has accumulated in Cape Town and its vicinity. It is to be hoped that in course of time the Library of Parliament and the South African Public Library, whose activities at present partly overlap, will merge into one institution which will, like the Library of Congress, serve both Parliament and people to their mutual satisfaction. Should the municipal library service in Cape Town become free, the present independent suburban libraries should be operated as branches of the South African Public Library.

The present policy objectives of this Library have been set out in "Some Proposals for the Development of National Bibliographical Services in South Africa,"⁸ by D. H. Varley and O. H. Spohr (in papers read at the Bloemfontein Conference, September 28, 1954. These objectives, approved by the Minister of Education, Arts and Science under whose jurisdiction this Library now falls, are summarized as follows:

It is true that we have neither the tight "bibliographical control" of a compact country such as Denmark, nor the major apparatus of older and larger countries such as Great Britain and the United States. We have, however, to summarise briefly, the following components of a national bibliographical service:

We have the elements of a *planning body* and *information centre* in the working group known so far as the Bibliographical Sub-committee, but at present it lacks official status and financial means.

We have a framework of bibliographical service on a national scale based primarily on the two national libraries and on the Councils for Scientific and Educational Research; these are State or State-aided bodies, and the amount of support they receive from the Government should be in direct relation to the tasks they set out to perform.

Place of the National Library

We have a number of important bibliographical undertakings in progress, which have arisen through the initiative of individual libraries with the resources to carry them out. These undertakings should be welcomed, and fitted into the general framework.

Lastly, there are projects which for want of financial support and the necessary technical facilities, still represent important *lacunae* in our national bibliographical equipment. Of these perhaps the two most important are the general national bibliography of current publishing output, and the compilation of a basic union list of South African publications of the past to supplement our present imperfect record.

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Effects of Postwar Legislation

EFFECTS on the Library of Postwar Legislation and Governmental Decree, As Well As the Effects, Limiting or Otherwise, of its Own Charter, Statutes and Regulations.

The British Museum

There has been no postwar legislation which has had any effect on the library. It would probably be true to say, however that the limiting effects of the acts of Parliament which govern the action of the trustees have been criticized more severely during the last few years than was previously the case. Speaking generally, there is no great substance in these criticisms, except in so far as existing regulations make it impossible to send books abroad for exhibition, and on occasion to lend books for particular purposes. On the whole there is little complaint by the Museum about the working of the acts of Parliament, and no ill effects have been caused in the general administration.

The National Library of Wales

As some changes in the law relating to copyright are envisaged, the National Library is keeping in close touch with the Standing Commission on Museums and Art Galleries with a view to bringing the Library in line with the other copyright libraries of the British Isles. Although generally speaking the Library is entitled to receive a copy of every book published in the British Isles, there is a category of expensive books published in limited editions to which it cannot lay claim. It is the National Library's aim to have this differentiation removed.

Bibliothèque Nationale, France

Important changes have been made in the civil service statutes affecting all personnel including those of the Bibliothèque Nationale.¹ These are described on page 82 in the section on personnel.

Effects of Postwar Legislation

In the realm of administrative modification, it is necessary to call attention, in the first place, to the creation of the Direction des bibliothèques de France²; and, in the second place, to the suppression of the Documentation Center and the separation of the Bibliothèque Mazarine³ which were part of the federation of national libraries before 1945; the statute governing the establishment of the Bibliothèque Nationale has not been amended since that date.

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Florence

This Library, like other government libraries, is governed by a law which has not been changed since the war, and which goes back to the Act of October 24, 1907.⁴ Studies are currently being made of the question of general regulations, and of rules governing photographic reproduction and copyright.

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Rome

There has been no new legislation, enacted since the war, which has affected the Biblioteca Nazionale. Growing numbers of readers have led the library administration to extend loan privileges as an encouragement to scholarship.

Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Netherlands

The Library is a state library under the Department of Education. It has no charter or statutes; its regulations date back to 1884, and there has been no recent legislation of any kind affecting it. On the administrative side, most decisions of any scope have to be approved by the Department of Education to become effective.

Milli Kütüphane, Ankara

The Milli Kütüphane was only founded in 1948; therefore the question has no meaning.

The Jewish National and University Library, Israel

In 1953, a law of legal deposit was passed which provides that each printer and publisher in Israel must place two copies of every publication in the Jewish National and University Library. In addition one copy must be sent to each of the following: the Library of the Knesset, the State Archives, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of the Interior.

LIBRARY TRENDS

The National Diet Library, Japan

Upon promulgation of the National Diet Library Law in 1948, operations of the former Diet Library ceased. The new law, in various aspects, improved the constitution of the former Diet Library. Modeled after the Library of Congress in the United States of America, the National Diet Library has been organized to render a three-fold service.

Characteristic changes wrought by the National Diet Library law include:

1. The initiation and development of a Research and Legislative Reference Bureau which provides material and reports for the study and legislative guidance of members of the Diet.
2. The combination of libraries formerly established in each House of the Diet into a single, detached library, administered directly by the National Diet Library for the use of members of the Diet and other persons connected with its work.
3. Formerly independent government libraries are now branches of the National Diet Library, cooperating with each other and jointly administered.
4. The processing of books collected by the various branch libraries had been unsystematic and unsatisfactory. In obedience to the National Diet Library Law, standards for processing have been adopted, which are followed by the branch libraries. Training courses for librarians in the branches have been instituted. Union catalog cards are being made for the first time.
5. Publications, both general and official, are pouring into the library in fulfillment of the law; these are accessible to the public.
6. An improved interlibrary loan system is fully utilized.
7. Under the good offices of the National Diet Library, special libraries, research libraries, and reference libraries are organizing professional associations and liaison committees for the promotion of cooperation.

General Assembly Library, New Zealand

Little change has taken place in the legislation relating to libraries in New Zealand in any shape or form since the war, although there were considerable changes, not by statutory authority, when the National Library Service was set up in 1945.⁵

At that time, what was then known as the Country Library Service, to supply books to rural areas, was reorganized into the National

Effects of Postwar Legislation

Library Service. There are three divisions: the Country Library Service much as before, a Library School, and the National Library Centre. The headquarters of the Service are in Wellington. The Country Library Service supplements the work of existing libraries through loans of books delivered twice yearly by the Service vans. The Library School began in February 1946 under the directorship of Mary Parsons, at that time Director of the United States Information Library. Dr. Parsons was loaned by the United States Government for the purpose. The National Library Centre is the organ of cooperation among New Zealand libraries and is primarily a union bibliographical center which will eventually maintain a great union catalog of books in New Zealand.^{6, 7}

Bibliothèque Publique de la Régence de Tunis

Legislation has been unchanged, except for the conditions of recruiting personnel, which have been revised. An examination, modeled on the French program, is now obligatory, in conformity with the movement so conspicuous in that country, which tends to substitute specialization for good will.

South African Public Library, Cape Town

From the date of its founding in 1818 till 1893 the South African Library was administered in terms of various local ordinances. From 1893 till 1954, however, it was governed by the South African Public Library Act, no. 33 of 1893. This act, as later amended, provided for a "self-perpetuating" type of Board of Trustees, with four government nominees, four members elected by the subscribers, two representatives of the City Council of Cape Town, and one from each of the Universities of Cape Town and Stellenbosch. The trustees had comparatively wide powers, subject to report to the government annually; could create posts and appoint on their own initiative, and make their own internal regulations, nominally subject to the approval of the government.

In 1954 this Act was repealed, and the Library became subject to the State-aided Institutions Act no. 23 of 1931, as amended, to which the state library was already subject. Although for purposes of grants-in-aid the South African Library was already regarded as a state-aided institution, and the premises were maintained from an early date by the Department of Public Works, it was not until October 29, 1954 that the Library was formally proclaimed. A clause in the 1893 Act providing for the management of the foundation collection left by

LIBRARY TRENDS

its founder Joachim von Dessin, in 1761, to be the nucleus of a public library for South Africa, was unrepealed, and still has effect.

The general effect of this change is to bring the Library in line with other state-aided institutions, such as the national museums and art galleries, but to limit the powers of the trustees in comparison with past practice. The Library is now administered in terms of regulations proclaimed under the Act, which prescribe that the creation of posts and appointment of professional library staff are subject to departmental approval. Staff conditions are brought into line with public service practice. The number of government nominees on the board has been increased from four to five.

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Financial Support

MODIFICATIONS of the Financial Support of the Library.

The British Museum

No library considers that it has sufficient financial support, and in general terms this would also be maintained by the library staff. On the other hand, provided a strong enough case is made out, the Treasury is not, in the long run, unresponsive to urgent needs. Perhaps the greatest lesson which the library has learned from its contacts with government departments controlling expenditure and "services," e.g. the Ministry of Works and the Stationery Office, is that it is necessary to make out a completely detailed statement of its needs and to be prepared to stand by that statement. This is rather an obvious lesson but one that librarians generally need to learn and re-learn.

On the question of finance generally, it has been suggested that a system similar to that employed by the University Grants Committee, whereby financial provision is made for a period of five years, and within the sum allotted, considerable freedom allowed to the institutions in their disposal of it, would be valuable for national libraries.

The National Central Library, London

Since the end of the war there has been a very substantial and gratifying recognition of the National Central Library's work on the part of Her Majesty's Treasury through gradually increasing grants-in-aid from state funds, and the Library is now much better fitted to deal with the demands which postwar conditions and opportunities have brought. This is not to say that with much larger funds the work could not be expanded and deal with many more cooperative enterprises.

The National Library of Wales

Government support has increased considerably during the post-war years, and the Library is now almost entirely maintained by the

LIBRARY TRENDS

state, the grant from Her Majesty's Treasury for the present financial year being £51,000 (\$142,800). This grant is for maintenance only, and the Treasury refuses to undertake any capital expenditure.

Bibliothèque Nationale, France

The activities of the Bibliothèque Nationale have increased greatly since the end of the war. While the subscription from the state has also increased materially the relative increase has not kept pace with the higher costs of materials and salaries. This is particularly serious in the matter of conservation and restoration of the Library's collections. Large sums will be needed for several years for binding, mending, and repair.

The subscription from the state is by far the largest source of income. Other income comes from the city of Paris and from the sale of publications and photographs. In 1952, 1953, and 1954, the autonomous budget has varied respectively from 193 (\$559,700) to 219 (\$635,100) to 207 (\$600,300) millions of francs.

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Florence

The Library's budget has been increased notably in the postwar period insofar as present total amounts of appropriated money go. Nevertheless, the appropriation is relatively smaller than in prewar days and is less in proportion to the institution's needs.

Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Netherlands

The Library is completely state-supported, and detailed budget proposals have to be submitted and approved each year. Appropriations for current accessions are now four times what they were before the last World War but standing at f. 130.000 (\$34,190) they are still anything but ample.

Schweizerische Landesbibliothek, Switzerland

To keep pace with the increase of work and prices, a noticeable augmentation of staff and credits has been received.

Milli Kütüphane, Ankara

The main source of income is the Turkish government. Every year the budget is approved by Parliament and up to now the amount of money appropriated has been ever-increasing. This government budget is supplemented by a certain sum donated by a special society called the "Milli Kütüphaneye Yardım Derneği" (Society to Promote the Advancement of the National Library).

Financial Support

The National Diet Library, Japan

No modifications of financial support are discernible. The National Diet Library is sustained entirely by government appropriation; the detail is given below:

Year	Personnel	Administrative	Repair	Total Budget
1948	362	58,912,000	22,263,000	81,175,000
1949	491	92,275,000	7,140,000	105,415,000
1950	527	137,508,000	5,140,000	142,648,000
1951	593	179,263,000	35,171,000	214,434,000
1952	566	209,012,000	82,250,000	291,262,000
1953	566	343,182,000	85,874,000	429,056,000
1954	557	320,186,000	50,000,000	370,186,000

(The official rate is 360 yen to the American dollar.)

These figures reflect a sound development of library services. Administrative expenses include allotments to various divisions.

Bibliothèque Publique de la Régence de Tunis

Typical figures for acquisitions, binding, and subscriptions:

1945: 300.000 F. (\$870)
1947: 1.200.000 F. (\$3,480)
1950: 4.217.948 F. (\$12,180)
1954: 7.600.000 F. (\$22,040)

Biblioteca Nacional, Argentina

The Library's budget is sufficient for its needs.

Biblioteca Nacional, Cuba

Financial support will be radically modified with the completion of a new building.

Biblioteca Nacional de Guatemala

The monthly appropriation amounts to 1,400 quetzales (\$1,400), of which 500 are encumbered for the acquisition of books and other materials. In addition, 900 quetzales (\$900) monthly are allotted to the forty-two public libraries in the various states of the republic for the acquisition of material and bibliographic apparatus.

Biblioteca Nacional, El Salvador

From 1941 to the present, the Biblioteca's budget has received such notable increases that it amounts today to four times as much as it was in that year.

South African Public Library, Cape Town

The amount of financial support granted to the Library by the state has increased from £2,000 (\$5,600) in 1937 to £20,000 (\$56,000) in 1954, and the Treasury has become the most important source of library revenue.

A further and fundamental change was also made in 1954, following the recommendation of 1937 that the national and municipal activities of the South African Library should be "separately financed and administered."

In 1944 the trustees persuaded the City Council of Cape Town to appoint a Library Commission, which reported in 1945 to the effect that the municipality should take the initiative in financing and administering a city-wide free library service. In 1949, provision was made in the Cape Provincial Library Ordinance, for the proclamation of urban library areas, of which Cape Town was one, and the subsidization of approved free library services operated in those areas, to the extent of 50 per cent of their expenditure, by the provincial administration.

By 1952, the beginnings of a separate City Library Service were in operation, and in that year the city appointed a Libraries Development Officer, with the task of building up a peninsula-wide municipal library service. Backed by the authority of the municipality and the provincial subsidy, this Development Officer, B. G. Hood, was able to bring the existing 10 independent "suburban" libraries under the new authority, and by 1954 was operating from a central headquarters in Cape Town, a system comprising 25 branches and service points.

In accordance with its general policy, the South African Library concluded an agreement with the City Council in 1954, under which the new City Library Service took over the former public lending functions of the Library, but for an intermediary period of five years, rented part of the existing library building as a central lending unit.

As a result of these changes, the former subscribers to the South African Library have ceased to exist as a source of revenue, which is now derived chiefly from the Union Government, from an annual municipal grant and rental, and from interest on investments, amounting in all to approximately £24,000 (\$67,200) per annum.

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Physical Plant and Equipment

NEW Construction, Remodeling, or Other Changes in Physical Plant and Equipment.

The British Museum

The damage suffered by the British Museum Library during the war has been made good, and the over-all accommodation has been slightly, but only slightly, improved. Storage in the main library building is estimated to last between five and ten years at the outside. Accommodation for newspapers in the Newspaper Library has already been used up and is in immediate need of augmentation. A start will be made on an addition to the building this year.

Advantage has been taken of the reconstruction of the bombed portion of the main stack to provide a number of special offices, including a microfilm reading room adjoining the Photographic Section. A new photographic studio has been constructed to deal entirely with requests for microfilms and photostats. This has enabled the Library, to overtake a large part of the arrears in orders for photocopies.

There has been minor repianning in the Library, with a view to concentrating and improving the working quarters of the professional staff. The administrative arrangements in the building, however, are, because of the physical layout, still unsatisfactory. No improvement can be effected until a new building is available. A proposal for a new building has been made, and it is hoped that plans can be made for a move to new quarters to begin within the next ten years.

Changes in the physical equipment include the completion of the airconditioning plant for the whole of the main stacks, and the replacement of the book-conveyor by a system of chutes. The latter is considered a development of considerable interest. The conveyor, which has now been replaced, was designed both to deliver books to a central distribution point and to collect books when done with and return them to a number of stations on each floor of the building. It was found in practice, however, that this return arrangement was

very little used, the books, when done with, being accumulated at a central point and returned to the shelves by lift and trolley. Thus, the conveyor system was being used only at half its proper capacity. The new system avoids this waste, and also avoids the necessity of mechanical power to bring the books to the level at which they are transported horizontally to the point at which they are delivered to the readers. There are dispatch points on each floor of each of the four quarters of the main stack, the books are placed in specially designed baskets and are carried down by gravity chute to a moving belt at a basement level, and are conveyed on the belt to the delivery point adjoining the Reading Room. Experience extending over eighteen months has shown that the books remain undisturbed during their passage down the chute, and do not suffer any physical damage.

The National Central Library, London

The extensive damage from enemy bombing during the war has been repaired and the restored building was formally opened in June 1952.¹

It was decided that the destroyed portions should be rebuilt, mainly as library workrooms and offices, while the basements should be fitted up as required for books—a policy which would provide for staff, storage and developments for a considerable number of years.

The west wing of the basement has been fitted up with bookstacks, mainly from the upper floors, and air-conditioning apparatus has been installed to serve the whole area below ground, and the large expanse of two-deck stacking on the Ground Floor. A strong room and workshop are also provided. . . . The second floor contains the Catalogue Room. This large room, unique in function and consequently one of the main features of the building, is fitted with wall cases and with three ranges of catalogue cases down its length, to house the catalogues and works of bibliographical reference which form the basis of the Library's work and include the National Union Catalogue, the *British Library Catalogue*, the London Union Catalogue and the Library of Congress Card Catalogue. Fluorescent lighting has been introduced into this room, where continuous close work is going on, to provide a higher intensity of light and to reduce shadows; incidentally, the light fittings have the effect of "lifting" a somewhat low ceiling imposed by the original beams. Lighting in the rest of the building is of tungsten type.

The Third Floor contains mainly offices and workrooms for the Information Department, the Bureau of American Bibliography, the South-Eastern Regional Bureau, the London Union Catalogue and

Physical Plant and Equipment

the staff concerned with special projects such as the Russian Union Catalogue, as well as space for expansion.

The Fourth Floor contains workrooms for the British National Book Centre and a considerable area for future allocation.

A second lift has been installed to serve all floors, including the mezzanine floor of the Ground Floor bookstack, for which no lift service was formerly available.

As there are buildings in close proximity on three sides of the Library, all walls and ceilings, as well as joinery, have been kept light in colour to secure the fullest benefit of the available daylight. The walls and ceilings are of a delicate shade of pink, the metal windows are a pale turquoise, and the Lagos mahogany joinery is bleached to a golden grey. The flooring is of hardwood blocks from Africa.

The National Library of Wales

The original plan of the Library has now been completed with the erection of the central block which consists of an entrance hall and annexes to the various reading rooms and galleries. This section will come into general use after the official opening which is expected to take place in July 1955. The Council is now faced with a deficit of about £18,000 (\$50,400). As this part of the building is mainly decorative, it does not afford much additional storage space. It is very much hoped that the Treasury can be prevailed upon to undertake the expense of completing the bookstack which was left unfinished in 1931. The most notable additions to the Library's plant are a new photostat machine, bought to replace the old one which had been in use since 1918, and a Monotype Caster and a Platen machine, formerly used at the well-known Gregynog Press. These were the gift of Miss Margaret S. Davies, of Gregynog.

Bibliothèque Nationale, France

Many physical improvements have been made, particularly the renovation of the heating plant and the installation of fluorescent lighting. It is now recognized that additional property immediately outside the original quadrangle must be procured for necessary expansion. Five pieces of land have been purchased in which have been installed the International Exchange Service, several administrative offices, and the classrooms for the courses in librarianship now conducted by the Direction des Bibliothèques. Independent of these installations mention must be made of two enterprises, one completed, the other in progress.²

LIBRARY TRENDS

The first is the construction, from December 1951 to September 1953, of a second repository attached to Versailles, where, in 1934, were constructed about twenty kilometres of shelves, distributed on eight floors, two of which, below ground level, are set aside for periodicals. This second repository, of analogous plan and comparable capacity, will be reserved for the collections of duplicates.

The second enterprise, initiated September 1, 1954, is the construction of five additional decks superimposed on the central bookstack of the Department of Printed Books, where thirty-five kilometres of new shelving will be placed, and reserved for accessions to the department's collections. This upward extension ought ultimately to permit improvement in the work-space allotted to the staff. A certain number of interior rearrangements are contemplated, particularly relating to the Serials Department, the Photographic Service, and the administrative offices, which are actually under study.

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Florence

The Library building, completed in 1935, provided with adequate space and equipped with modern technical conveniences, has not undergone significant structural changes. Photographic facilities were installed in 1954. Quarters have been assigned to the staff engaged in developing the Italian Union Catalog, which is independent of the personnel employed in cataloging the Library's own accessions.

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Rome

The building is very large, having been built at the close of the sixteenth century. The Library has occupied it since its establishment in 1875. Because it is an old building, not designed to house a library, constant precautions have to be taken to prevent overweight in certain areas, resulting from the increasing number of acquisitions. Such precautions were relaxed during the war and, as a consequence, the stability of the structure was jeopardized. Recently, reconstruction for the purpose of bolstering walls has been undertaken. Moreover, infrequently used material, such as duplicate sets of periodicals, have been removed to another location. Consideration is presently being given to the construction of a new and larger building.

Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Netherlands

There are plans for a large new bookstack to be erected on an adjoining site, and for extensive internal modifications in the existing buildings. A modest part of the new stack is under construction, which

Physical Plant and Equipment

is calculated to help out for only a few years. It will, however, provide adequate shelter at last to the invaluable collection of manuscripts.

Schweizerische Landesbibliothek, Switzerland

The building having been erected in 1931, no new construction or fundamental changes have been necessary. The only important innovation was a complete remodeling in 1950 of the photographic laboratory plant and equipment, to enable it to meet the rapidly increasing orders for reproductions of all description.

Milli Kütüphane, Ankara

The National Library is housed in a remodeled former government casino. In 1954, an annex was opened. This new addition was built specifically to meet the most urgent needs of the Library. It contains three stack levels, a large photographic laboratory, a good-sized conference room, and a special film-projection room.

The Jewish National and University Library, Israel

Following the War of Independence, the University and the National Library have been separated, for the time being, from their home on Mount Scopus. They now occupy scattered, makeshift quarters in the new city of Jerusalem. A foremost urgent need is, therefore, the construction of a central library building on the new university campus. Plans for this building are now in progress with the prospect of enlisting advice from library architects abroad. It is expected that the new building will have a capacity of two million volumes.

The National Diet Library, Japan

Ever since its establishment in 1948, the National Diet Library has ardently wished for a building of its own. At last it has been authorized to expend a small sum to begin construction. It is expected that the building will be completed in a few years.

Temporarily the Library is housed in previously existing buildings, located in separated parts of Tokyo. This circumstance has prohibited the Library from rendering effective service. Moreover, there has been a serious shortage of floor space.

The new library building will adjoin the Diet building because its primary duty is to the Diet. It will contain branch offices and will house some of the branch libraries now scattered throughout the city.

These are the requirements of the projected building:

LIBRARY TRENDS

1. Book capacity: More than 3,000,000 volumes.
2. Reader Accommodations: More than 1,500 desks.
3. Staff and Workspace: 1,500 persons.
4. Floor area: 650,000 square feet.
5. Auditorium capacity: 1,200 persons.

The design of the new building was determined by an open competition held in 1953. Fundamental planning began in the summer of 1954. Ground was broken in the spring of 1955. Thanks to a donation from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Library has an excellent photo-duplication laboratory, set up in 1954, in the compound of the Main Office in Akaseka.

General Assembly Library, New Zealand

Accommodation for libraries is poor and the chances of early improvement are not good. New Zealand is developing rapidly and the primary effort in building has been devoted to housing and to schools.

Biblioteca Nacional, Argentina

No consideration is being given to the erection of a new building, despite the fact that it is impossible to enlarge or remodel the present quarters.

Biblioteca Nacional, Cuba

A new building, incorporating all modern advances, is being constructed.

Biblioteca Nacional de Guatemala

(See page 21).

Biblioteca Nacional, Peru

The National Library building has been completed, but only on a part of the site assigned to it. It is planned to expand the building, extending it over the rest of the site. It is hoped that construction will begin during 1955.

Biblioteca Nacional, El Salvador

In the last months of 1954, a second floor was built on the east wing of the Library to provide more space for departments and for current accessions.

Physical Plant and Equipment

South African Public Library, Cape Town

The present building of the South African Library consists of a Main Block erected in 1860, a Central Extension added in 1922, and the Fairbridge Wing, added in 1927.

Plans are now at an advanced stage for the erection of a new three-story extension to the existing building, making fireproof provision for the Grey, Dessinian and other national collections, additional storage space for 100,000 volumes, and badly-needed administrative quarters. It is hoped to make a start with this building in 1956; the funds are being provided by the Union Government.

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Response to Conditions Abroad

THE Library's Response to Conditions Abroad.

The National Central Library, London

The international lending system which was reintroduced in 1946, has now assumed quite large proportions. The figures are rising steadily year by year, and the return flow of loans from foreign countries is very gratifying.¹

France continues to be the only country that lends considerably more than it borrows; it is second only to Germany as a lender of books to this country. Loans to the latter country have decreased, while the number of books borrowed by British libraries has increased. Loans to Eastern European countries continue to be on a relatively large scale, especially to Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Bulgaria, the number to Poland having increased from 12 to 70. All these countries have been able to reciprocate to some extent though calls on them have been limited. It is of interest to note that small countries like Luxembourg and the Saar are high in the list of borrowers. Some of the transactions recorded (particularly in the case of the United States) are for photographic reproductions, not for loans.

	Loans to overseas libraries	Loans from overseas libraries		Loans to overseas libraries	Loans from overseas libraries
Anglo-Egyptian			Kenya	37	—
Sudan	8	—	Lebanon	1	—
Australia	14	—	Luxembourg	62	—
Austria	120	1	Malaya	2	—
Belgium	21	36	Malta	1	—
Bulgaria	42	1	Mexico	1	—
Canada	—	1	Norway	33	17
Ceylon	1	—	Poland	70	13
Cyprus	55	—	Portugal	6	—
Czechoslovakia	232	8	Saar	140	—
Denmark	123	9	South Africa	35	—
Egypt	16	—	Spain	1	15
Finland	2	9	Sweden	167	17
France	190	303	Switzerland	86	36

Response to Conditions Abroad

Germany	609	461	Syria	1	—
Greece	5	—	Trieste	2	—
Holland	65	34	Turkey	10	—
Hungary	212	21	U.S.A.	6	65
India	16	—	West Africa		
Israel	5	—	(Gold Coast)	3	—
Italy	98	66	Yugoslavia	29	1
Jamaica	1	—			
Jordan	1	—			
			TOTAL	2,531	1,158
			To 41 countries; from 19 countries.		

Bibliothèque Nationale, France

All libraries, as with intellectual and educational institutions generally, are subject to the exigencies of world conditions of peace, trade, cultural and scientific exchange, and freedom of speech and movement. The coming of peace after World War II brought the reopening of the channels of trade and exchange by which the printed materials of other countries are procured.

Publications exchange agreements interrupted by the war have been systematically renewed. By 1951 the amount of material received on exchange increased eight-fold over the receipts of 1946. Formal agreements with learned societies by 1951 numbered 183 in 39 different countries.²

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Florence

The Library has exchange relations with outstanding foreign cultural institutions to which it sends its *Bollettino delle Pubblicazioni Ricevute per Diritto di Stampa*. Received in return are important national bibliographies, or other works of informational character. During the war copies of the *Bollettino* were held for later shipment abroad. Not all foreign repositories, however, did this and as a consequence the Biblioteca's collections have been impoverished. This is the only form of exchange the institution can undertake; the legislation under which the Biblioteca operates does not provide a budget for an expanded program. The *Bollettino* is sent free to any library from which there is a possibility of receiving publications in exchange.

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Rome

The Library lends and borrows books abroad, exchanges publications with numerous foreign institutions, and makes a gift of some works. The *Centro di Informazioni Bibliografiche* answers questions from students and institutions throughout the world.

LIBRARY TRENDS

Bibliothèque Nationale, Luxembourg

The Bibliothèque Nationale has initiated an exchange and loan service with most of the great European libraries. It acts as: (a) the national exchange center between the libraries and institutes in the Grand Duchy and those abroad; (b) the center of documentation and bibliographical research; and (c) the center for international inter-library loans.

Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Netherlands

The Library's response to conditions abroad varies between pride and envy as the spotlight is turned onto different countries. Though noting with satisfaction, in an idealist sort of way, improvements and new developments in all fields, it derives but few benefits from them in practice, since overcrowding and limited funds set their own restrictions on what is practicable.

Kungl. Biblioteket, Sweden

As far as materials of Swedish interest are concerned, completeness is aimed at and on the whole achieved. The situation with regard to foreign research material is much less satisfactory. A survey conducted in the spring of 1953 revealed a great number of serious gaps, particularly in the holdings of learned periodicals and serials, and the coverage of several important fields turned out to be very scrappy and uneven. On the basis of these findings a program for rounding out the foreign collection was drawn up and thanks to special appropriations granted by the government is now in the process of implementation. An active exchange program has also been initiated. The material available for exchange includes the bibliographical publications of the Library, above all the National Bibliography, the publications of the Stockholm University (faculties of arts and law) and certain periodicals. The aim is to provide the growing University of Stockholm with the materials needed for teaching and research in the fields for which the Library has accepted responsibility: the humanities with special emphasis on European history and geography, church history, classical and modern languages, fine arts, philosophy, psychology, sociology, anthropology, and comparative religion. A strong Russian collection is being built up.

Schweizerische Landesbibliothek, Switzerland

The Library acts as a center for international loans, checking outgoing orders with the Union Catalog, to make sure that the requested

Response to Conditions Abroad

volume cannot be found within the country, and directing incoming orders to the proper libraries. The information service answers any questions coming from abroad as freely as the ones emanating from Switzerland.

Milli Kütüphane, Ankara

In the future the Milli Kütüphane hopes to have special exhibits reflecting world conditions, but for the moment the only response to conditions abroad is reflected, in a small way, in the acquisition policy.

The Jewish National and University Library, Israel

The Library has sent material to some war- and fire-damaged libraries abroad, and has filled gaps in Judaica in some European Jewish libraries.

The National Diet Library, Japan

The Library has been greatly influenced in its organization and procedures by the Library of Congress, at Washington; otherwise it has shown no response to conditions abroad.

Biblioteca Nacional, Cuba

The Library conducts correspondence and maintains exchange relations with every part of the world.

South African Public Library, Cape Town

During the past seven years visits have been paid to libraries in Europe and America by the chief librarian, the deputy librarian and two other senior members of the staff. The Library is also in touch with overseas developments through its arrangements for the exchange of publications, but not hitherto, of staff. Owing to its position on an important international shipping route, Cape Town has also, from time to time, the privilege of welcoming librarians from other countries, and so keeping in touch with library conditions abroad.

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Acquisitions Policy

ALTERED Accents on Acquisitions, and Acquisitions Policy.

The British Museum

The most noticeable change in relations with foreign countries is in the growth of the exchange system. It has become the practice in many institutions to acquire new publications by exchange on a rough value for value basis. The British Museum now has very large relations of this kind with other cultural institutions. On the whole the system works satisfactory enough, but the main difficulty is in the relative number of publications available for this purpose. The British Museum publishes less than a large university, but it is perhaps true to think that the value attaching to many of the museum publications outweighs the smallness of the number. Such exchanges involve a considerable amount of office work, but on the whole this is accepted as quite reasonable.

Different considerations apply, however, where the only system of acquiring books from certain countries is by an exchange arrangement (i.e. where it is virtually impossible to acquire representative selections of publications through commercial channels). Like many other libraries, the British Museum has been forced by current circumstances to adopt this policy in regard to publications of some Eastern European countries. The amount of labor involved is really disproportionate to the results obtained and is justified only by the fact that no other means can be found of acquiring all the publications that are needed. It is the opinion that this is a wasteful method of acquiring foreign books and that the libraries are not really geared to performing an operation which is strictly one proper to a bookseller.

One of the most important phenomena of the present time, from the point of view of a large comprehensive national library, is the greatly increased output of books. Many of the countries long recognized as the main sources of published material are increasing their book production enormously, and many countries where little was pub-

Acquisitions Policy

lished previously are now producing books of great importance for all who are interested in current affairs, and also for students of economics, history, technology, etc. This latter development has necessitated a complete overhaul of the acquisitions policy of the library. Efforts have had to be made to make contact with publishing houses in many "new" countries, particularly in the Far East. This is by no means an easy matter and involves the Acquisition Division in a very great deal of additional work.

In the same connection, consideration is being given to a carefully thought out plan for the redistribution of the grant allotted by Parliament for the purchase of foreign books.

Bibliothèque Nationale, France

The most pressing need after the war has been the filling of the great void caused by the war. Particularly difficult has been the reconstruction of foreign serial and periodical sets and this activity has had high priority in the acquisitions program.

The Bibliothèque Nationale recognizes that the amount and diversity of printed material calls for a decentralization of the national collections. The growth of special libraries and documentation centers in Paris and throughout France is a natural and logical development. Full and efficient use of the combined resources can only come about through close and systematic cooperation between all libraries through interlibrary loaning, union catalogs and, particularly, planned cooperative acquisitions. Important steps have been taken toward these ends.

The Bibliothèque Nationale also recognizes its responsibility to preserve the great rarities of print and manuscript and continues its procedure of methodical collection of these precious documents.

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Florence

The acquisition of foreign publications, interrupted by the war, has been resumed. Efforts to secure material issued abroad during the period of hostilities have not been completely successful, but exchange relations have been established and much foreign documentation is currently received.

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Rome

The acquisitions policy is unchanged. Since the cessation of the war, gaps have been filled in foreign serial publications.

LIBRARY TRENDS

Bibliothèque Nationale, Luxembourg

The Library has received several important gifts; notably from the American Book Center in Washington, the Interallied Book Center in London, and the former United States Information Service Library in Luxembourg.

Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Netherlands

Increased appropriations have made it possible to follow a more liberal acquisitions policy and to fill some of the more serious gaps left by the war and by inadequate buying in the years of depression before it. Increased cooperation between libraries to avoid unnecessary duplication, especially of expensive series and periodicals in infrequent demand, helps to make the most of available funds. A new facet which has appeared in acquisitions as well as in library work generally is due not so much to a change in policy as to the discovery in, roughly, 1945, of the continent of America.

Kungl. Biblioteket, Sweden

One of the aims of present policy is the efficient coordination and utilization of the aggregate library resources of Stockholm. In 1949, there was set up a Joint Library Committee for the Stockholm area, which is an entirely unofficial body, composed of the directors of the research libraries in the capital. Since 1953, the committee, which has its headquarters at the Royal Library, has operated a daily inter-library loan and transport service.

Schweizerische Landesbibliothek, Switzerland

Being limited to Helvetica, the acquisitions policy has undergone no change.

Millî Kütüphane, Ankara

World events tend to have some influence on acquisitions policy, but on the whole the established policy is maintained. This consists of acquiring all Turkish publications, and all foreign publications dealing with Turkey and the Near East. Moreover, an effort is being made to acquire those foreign publications which are thought to be most useful to scholars, plus more than two thousand domestic and foreign magazines and other serials.

The Jewish National and University Library, Israel

The current trend of acquisitions is toward greater receipts from

Acquisitions Policy

the United States and Great Britain, rather than from Continental Europe, because English is now the main foreign language in Israel, and is required in secondary and higher schools. Material from Arab countries, for political reasons, must now be purchased indirectly from London or Paris, rather than from the country of publication. Each year brings a greatly accelerated rate of acquisition, with this year marking the receipt of 60,000 volumes and about 120,000 single issues of 6,000 periodical titles.

The National Diet Library, Japan

There has been no change in policy. For the purchase of foreign works and retrospective materials a Book Selection Committee has been appointed. Emphasis is given to the literature of the social sciences and of industry and technology. Copies of all government publications are required by law to be deposited in the Library, as are also copies of all publications of the Japanese book trade, sound recordings, and films.

Bibliothèque Publique de la Régence de Tunis

Beginning in 1945, acquisitions increased in the Oriental Section, already abundantly supplied with manuscripts and orientalia, but since that date these stocks have been materially enlarged by the receipt of oriental editions, notably from Egypt and the Near East.

Biblioteca Nacional, Argentina

No acquisitions of value are being received at present.

Biblioteca Nacional, Peru

By virtue of existing laws and decrees the Biblioteca Nacional has the right to receive two copies of every book, pamphlet, or periodical printed in the country. Many publishers, authors and presses comply; others obey only reluctantly and under compulsion; indeed, in many cases, unfortunately, it is so difficult to obtain such materials that the Library finds it necessary to purchase what should have been transmitted to it free.

Biblioteca Nacional, El Salvador

Because book prices increased during the period 1939-1944, by reason of the rise in the costs of paper and other material as well as wages, acquisitions were reduced by a third or a fourth.

LIBRARY TRENDS

South African Public Library, Cape Town

The adaptation of the Library's functions from a general purpose institution to one specializing in reference, bibliographical and research work, has led to a realignment of acquisitions policies, which is still taking shape.

At present the Library is concentrating on the building-up of its serial and general reference collections, and of its Africana resources, particularly through the acquisition of material on microfilm, and in acquiring the equipment to enable the Library to serve as a bibliographical information center.

Collections

NOTABLE Additions to the Collections.

The British Museum

Apart from the current accessions which often include important incunabula and early printed books from English or Continental presses, the outstanding additions to the collections since the war have been the Hirsch Music Library¹ and the selection of books from the Earl of Leicester's Collection at Holkham.² A catalog of the music from the Hirsch Collection was published as a separate part of the series of accessions in 1951. The books from the Holkham Collection have been included in the general catalog. Large numbers of books accumulated during the war in local salvage drives have been received. These add materially to the collections of 19th century editions of English literature. Another important acquisition is the collection of hymnological books formed by John Julian, compiler of *A Dictionary of Hymnology*.

The National Library of Wales

A description of the Monmouthshire and South Wales Coalowners' Association Records from 1864 to the present have been received on deposit.³

These records consist of a vast bulk of bound manuscript and typescript volumes, box files, newspaper cuttings, and miscellaneous papers, which taken together constitute an unique source of information for students of industrial relations in the South Wales coalfield and also throw much light on commercial policy and the economic development of the industry from the period of its great expansion in the latter half of the nineteenth century until its nationalization. The deposit also contains a valuable collection of Government reports and printed material concerning the coal industry in Great Britain in general with many important works relating to the special conditions prevailing in South Wales.

Leabharlann Naisiunta na hÉireann (National Library of Ireland)

The Ormonde Archives, a collection of bound manuscripts, deeds, letters, etc. relating to the Ormonde family and the history of Ireland from the 12th to the 18th centuries containing about 50,000 items.

Microfilms of almost all the manuscripts of Irish interest in the British Museum, London, the Bibliothèque Nationale and the Archives Nationales, Paris, and the Archive General de Simancas, and microfilms of large numbers of medieval manuscripts of Irish interest in Vienna, Munich, Rome, Berlin, and many other European cities.

Bibliothèque Nationale, France

Notable in this period was the formal acceptance in 1949 of the Baron James de Rothschild collection of books, manuscripts and autographs of early French literature. It has been installed in a special room, constructed from the woodwork from the Chateau de la Muette, holding five thousand volumes. An exposition of the five hundred choicest items was held upon the opening of the room.

Another major bequest is the Straus collection of eight hundred modern novels in original editions.

Many fine and valuable additions of maps, music, letters, and prints too numerous to mention are described in the 1945-1951 *Rapports*.⁴

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Florence

Rich private collections have been acquired such as the Landau-Finlay collection, the Commune of Florence collection, the Benn collection, and the Franchetti collection.

Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Netherlands

Notable additions to the manuscript collections include: Genealogy of the Kings of England from Brutus to Edward I (roll, c. 1300, in Old French); Valerius Maximus, *Des faits et des paroles mémorables* (XIVd, once in the Imperial Library at St. Petersburg); three Books of Hours in Dutch with Utrecht calendar (XVa, XVB, 1484); Plutarch, *Des très illustres vies des aucuns capitaines très prestanz Rommains* (c. 1500, once in the Imperial Library at St. Petersburg); Prayer-Book in Latin, written at Sint Truiden (XVIA); album amicorum of Bernardus Paludanus (used 1578-1629); Diary of [? Robert] Col [? e] man for the expeditions of 1794-1795 to the Netherlands and Hanover, and of 1796-1797 to the West Indies; Notes on the Colony of Surinam (1800, by Bourdois?); the manuscripts of the works of the composer

Collections

Willem Pijper and the poet Hendrik Marsman (XXA); for printed books: Van Kan collection (Jeanne d'Arc); Niemeijer collection (chess); Swaen collection (falconry); Hamerster collection (Hinduism, Buddhism, H. P. Blavatsky, Baconian heresy); Van Baak collection (early printed books); further the facsimile of the Book of Kells, and a set of the Kelmscott Press, complete except for the small pamphlets, in a special bookcase from the Morris workshop. This is necessarily a selection; the list could easily be extended by the titles of a quantity of rare and often unique works. A full account is given in the annual reports published by the Library.

Schweizerische Landesbibliothek, Switzerland

The outstanding addition to the funds was the donation, in 1951, of a most important collection of Rilke documents, containing 432 unpublished letters of the poet to the donor, Mrs. Wunderly-Volkart, and numerous other documents which Rilke⁶ left when he died.

Millî Kütüphane, Ankara

An effort is being made to persuade individuals to donate their outstanding private collections. As a consequence, the Millî Kütüphane has been given the private library of educational books formed by the late Ihsan Sungu, a fine library of medical literature assembled by the late Dr. Galip Ataç, the notable collection of the late Saffet Arıkan, and the law library of the late Professor Esat Arsebük.

The Jewish National and University Library, Israel

The Library has made systematic and prolonged efforts to salvage Judaica and Hebraica from collections gathered throughout the years by Jewish communities in Europe. Up to now, some 35,000 volumes have been incorporated in the collection, among them Hebrew incunabula and a good collection of Judaica Latina. Other subjects are also well represented.

Included is the library of the Jewish German philosopher, Hermann Cohen. This is a rich philosophical collection, containing runs of periodicals as well as important monographs.

In 1951, the Library received the collection of Harry Friedenwald, of Baltimore, comprising some 3,000 volumes. Part of the collection was cataloged by Friedenwald himself in his book, *Jewish Luminaries in Medical History*. Most of the books deal with the history of medicine, especially among Jews. There are many manuscripts and incunabula, such as a convolute (c. 1450) containing Latin manuscripts

LIBRARY TRENDS

of medical works by Maimonides which are not found elsewhere in Latin translation; a manuscript Articella; a Hebrew manuscript code containing works of the medieval Jewish physicians, Asaph and Donnolo; the Hebrew *Canon Medicinæ* of Avicenna, Neapoli, 1491-1492; Isaac Israeli's *De Particularibus Dietis*, Padua, 1487; and many others. The Library is continuing to add to this collection.

The Library has received by gift the private collection of European music formed by the late conductor, Serge Koussevitsky; 430 Yemenite and 120 Moroccan manuscripts; a Judaic collection, mostly in French, donated by Mr. Namir, of Paris; and an important collection of Española Judaica, including rare material on the Spanish Inquisition, presented by Ignacio Bauer, formerly of Madrid.

Other sizable acquisitions include several hundreds of Rooseveltiana, a large collection of works published in Western Germany during the past few years, presented by the Börsenverein Deutscher Verleger- und Buchhändler-Vereine and part of the famous collection of Rabbi Dr. M. Gaster, of London, including valuable Hebraica, Judaica and Yiddish literature.

In addition to the medical collection in the main library, which is called the Dr. Julius Jarcho Medical Library, there are twenty-one branch medical libraries under the jurisdiction of the Jewish National and University Library. Eleven of these were organized after the establishment of the State of Israel. All of the twenty-two collections owe their existence to the initiative of Julius Jarcho, New York surgeon, who still contributes in large measure to their maintenance. The library of the chemist, Michael Melamid, added valuable material to the Chemistry Department Library. There are in it first editions, no longer available on the market, the most important standard chemical works, and long runs of periodicals.

The Jewish National and University Library salvaged a great number of Arab books during the War of Independence. These are held in trust by the Library pending a general settlement.

The National Diet Library, Japan

The following may be counted among the more distinguished accessions:

1. The Manchurian Railway Company Collection: foreign books and periodicals relating to law, politics, economics, industry, and social science, ranging from the early part of the 20th century to the outbreak of World War II, published in various areas of the world,

Collections

and assembled by the company's former East Asia Economic Research Bureau. About 8,000 volumes.

2. The Fujiyama Bunko: fundamental works on China, formerly in the possession of Aiichiro Fujiyama. About 52,000 volumes.

3. The East Asiatic Institution Collection: material on law, politics, economics, and social conditions in China. About 28,000 volumes.

4. The Nakanishi Collection: books donated by Torao Nakanishi, formerly professor at Tokyo University, relating to Marxist economics and including a copy of the first edition of *Das Kapital*. About 2,000 volumes.

5. The Kameda Bunko: books formerly in the collection of the late Jiro Kameda, student of the national language, containing such rare and excellent works as *Inkyo* and *Setsuyo-shu*. About 4,000 volumes.

6. The Harima Bunko: Russian documents and other publications, collected by the late Yukichi Harima. About 1,200 volumes.

7. The Meiji Collection: documents and other materials relating to the Meiji Constitution and ancillary subjects, formerly in the possession of the heroes of the Meiji era, including Sanjo, Iwakura, Ito, Okubo, Katsura, Inouye, and Makino. About 100,000 volumes.

8. The Shidehara Peace Library: books relating to politics and diplomacy, collected in memory of the late Kijuro Shidehara, former Speaker of the House of Representatives and Prime Minister, as a contribution to international peace. About 2,000 volumes.

9. The Rockefeller Foundation Gift: selected American publications issued since 1940, including books on literature, the natural sciences and the social sciences. [No count].

10. The British Publishers Association Gift: primarily publications issued in the period 1945-1950, relating to various subject fields. About 2,000 volumes.

11. The Slavic Study Collection: American, British, French, and German publications, selected by the Library of Congress, and donated by the Rockefeller Foundation to assist Slavic studies in Japan. About 500 volumes.

12. The Publications Board Reports: purchased by the Library, in the hope of promoting industrial and technical studies, from the Publications Board of the United States Department of Commerce. These are produced in the medium of microfilm and photostat. About 100,000 items. Another 3,000 items are on order.

13. Atomic Energy Materials: the Library is now attempting to collect all materials on atomic energy, published by governments, institutes and other organizations throughout the world. Up to now

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books in 1,500 volumes, reports and pamphlets consisting of 2,700 pieces, and 250 periodicals in 27,000 volumes are listed in the Atomic Energy Material Reading Room.

Biblioteca Nacional, Cuba

Recent important additions have included basic technical manuals in science and technology.

Biblioteca Nacional de Guatemala

Special mention must be made of the Valenzuela Collection, made up preponderantly of pamphlets and single leaves, recently purchased for 12,000 quetzales (\$12,000), through the efforts of Directors Castañeda and Chinchilla. Some of its contents are of incalculable value.

Biblioteca Nacional, Peru

The Biblioteca has been constantly concerned with increasing the manuscript collection, and is trying to gather the largest possible number of documents relating to Peruvian history and literature. In the past six years, the number of manuscripts acquired has increased prodigiously. Probably the most important and valuable is the *Toledo Codex*, which is a collection of the ordinances and decrees of Viceroy Francisco de Toledo; the compilation was ordered by Viceroy Velasco, who was one of Toledo's immediate successors. The work is signed by him and by several notaries of Lima. This codex, for the most part unpublished, is a source of the first order for research not only in the history of Peru, but in the history of America and Spanish colonial policy in the Indies as well.

South African Public Library, Cape Town

During the past few years, the most important acquisitions have been in the field of private and political papers, such as the Molteno Papers, the papers of former Prime Minister W. P. Schreiner, and the letters of Lady Anne Barnard at the beginning of the 19th century. Other notable acquisitions have included the Springbok Collection, containing a number of finely printed private press works; the C. L. Leipoldt and Hilda Gerber Cookery Collections; the sketch-books of the astronomer and scientist Sir John Herschel who lived at the Cape from 1834-38; and the Jurgens Collection of Postal Africana, comprising 20 volumes of franked and hand-stamped covers dating from the settlement of the Cape by Jan van Riebeeck in 1652. In 1953 the

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Library acquired the John Armstrong Collection of vocal music, consisting of more than 1,000 items.

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Services

SERVICES Recently Initiated or in Prospect.

The British Museum

The *British National Bibliography* provides an interesting experiment in collaboration between the British Museum and a semi-commercial non-profit-making institution. The *British National Bibliography* started in 1950 and aims at printing weekly lists with quarterly and annual cumulations of all the material, excluding maps, music and some government publications, received in the Copyright Office of the British Museum. It is administered by a council on which the British Museum is represented. In fact, the chairmanship of the council and of its executive committee has been in the hands of the keeper of the Department of Printed Books. The staff of the *British National Bibliography* are allowed free access to the copyright books, as they arrive, and working quarters are provided for them by the Trustees of the British Museum. The Museum has gained from the association by receiving publications sent in under the Copyright Act in many cases before publication; it has also had its attention drawn to publications which had not been deposited owing to an oversight on the part of the publishers; it also finds the classification supplied by the *British National Bibliography* of value in its own subject indexing; and it has been able to cumulate on cards all the entries which have appeared in the *British National Bibliography* from the beginning. This latter, classified, catalog on cards of all English books printed since 1950, has been placed in the Reading Room and made available to readers. It is too early to judge how far a large classified catalog of this kind meets the need of the day to day users of the Reading Room, and judgment is suspended on this point for the time being.

A notable and very useful additional service introduced in the Reading Room is the Inquiry Desk placed at the entrance. This has had the effect of enabling new readers to obtain the books or information required more quickly than has previously been the case. It has

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also relieved considerably the pressure on the superintendent and his assistant, who can devote more attention to the examination of the reference collection in the Reading Room with a view to bringing it up to date and making it conform more to current needs. The redecoration and renewal of equipment in the Reading Room, and the installation of new fluorescent desk lighting has also considerably increased the amenities of the room.

Modifications in the layout of the Map Room have made it possible for a larger number of users to be accommodated, and for the public to take advantage of the specialist knowledge of the staff of this section. Unfortunately the space available is extremely limited, and no further development along these lines can be contemplated in the present quarters.

Alterations in the layout of the staff quarters in the State Paper Room will make it possible to provide accommodation for readers there once more. In recent years the serial holdings of the State Paper Room have been transferred to visible index files, and it is expected that the services to the public will be considerably increased.

As previously stated, advantage has been taken of the reconstruction of the damaged portion of the bookstacks to install a special room for the consultation of microfilms. It is expected that this will be in operation in the near future. It is also expected that this same room will house a collating machine which has been ordered from the United States.

At the request of the British Museum, Her Majesty's Stationery Office has installed in the Museum Bindery a Barrow laminating machine, which was put into operation in February, 1955.

One of the most important functions of a national library is to display its treasures and to allow the public, whose money supports the institution, to see the objects in the collections. The British Museum Library has long been famous for its exhibition of notable manuscripts, autographs and printed books both western and oriental. For many years it has had on display an exhibition illustrating the history of printing. The number of cases available for exhibition was reduced as a result of damage during the war, but even so, an attempt has been made in the last few years to extend the range of its exhibitions. The year 1953, the year in which the Museum celebrated the 200th anniversary of its foundation status, was marked by a series of twelve exhibitions, each designed to demonstrate the richness of the collections in the main literatures of the world. This was a large task but was completely successful. Public interest was aroused and the staff

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gained enormously in knowledge of the collections. The practice of mounting exhibitions to mark centenaries and other important events has now become established.

The National Central Library, London

The British National Book Centre instituted as a special department in 1947 for the recording and redistribution of redundant books and periodicals in the United Kingdom has grown rapidly.

"... a point was reached early in 1954 when a decision had to be taken not to admit new participants. It is an indication of the value placed on the Centre's interchange work that, by the end of the year, there was a waiting list of 60 libraries.

Offers of material from co-operating libraries amounted to 64,928, an increase of 23,799 over the preceding year. Thirteen book lists and 12 periodical lists, containing 42,021 and 7,535 entries respectively, were issued and over 2,000 wants advertised. For the material 70,724 requests were received as against 48,052 in the previous year. Interchange was arranged of 107,972 volumes and periodical parts, an increase of 43,507. Including material from the Centre's own stock and transfers arranged direct between libraries, the total interchange amounted to 122,963 volumes and parts."^{1, 2}

The National Library of Wales

It is hoped, when the new Central Block becomes available for use, to open the Library in the evenings till 7:30 or 8. It now closes at 5 p.m.

Bibliothèque Nationale, France

Three new services have been instituted in the Department of Acquisitions:

The Slavic Section is primarily concerned with an inventory and a union catalog of all Russian publications in the libraries of Paris. The Slavic Section is also maintaining a supplement to the *Catalogue des Périodiques Slaves . . . des Bibliothèques de Paris* published in 1929. The Russian collection is growing rapidly primarily through exchange.

The Oriental Section is bringing together all activities in connection with the near-eastern materials both manuscript and print and the development of special catalogs of these materials.

In 1950 a new section was formed to develop adequate listing of the many official publications of the governmental departments. Unlike the United States or Great Britain there is no central office for the printing and distribution of official publications and this section provides the bibliographical organization offered by a central agency.

Services

The Photographic Service provides all types of photographic services. It is also systematically preserving on microfilm the irreplaceable archives and documents in the Library.

An interlibrary loan service to the provincial libraries in France and to foreign countries has been established. The number of items handled by this service grew from 395 in 1945 to 4,271 in 1951.

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Florence

The Library has recently engaged, for the first time, in direct international borrowing. For several years, the Centro Informazioni Bibliografiche in Rome functioned as the agency for sending and receiving loans to and from foreign countries. Now this Library also provides direct service, which, because of its expedition and efficiency, has greatly increased the number of international interlibrary loans.

Milli Kütüphane, Ankara

The Institute of Bibliography has recently been opened within the National Library. It publishes a bulletin of acquisitions of foreign publications in Turkish libraries (*Yabancı eserler bülteni*). The Library has recently undertaken to microfilm the rich manuscript collections of Turkey, starting from Istanbul. All manuscripts are sent to the Milli Kütüphane where they are microfilmed. The original is then returned to its own library, while the microfilm reproduction is retained by the Milli Kütüphane. Thus a complete library on microfilm of all Turkish manuscripts is being developed.

The Jewish National and University Library, Israel

The installation of projectors has enabled the public to make use of microfilm collections. In the near future the acquisition of a manifold machine for catalog cards will enable the Library to supply other libraries with copies of its cards at a moderate cost.

Services in prospect include personnel training to be made possible by the opening of a library school within the organizational framework of the Hebrew University and the Jewish National and University Library. Leon Carnovsky, of the University of Chicago's Graduate Library School, recently surveyed the library personnel needs of the country, and made recommendations on policy and curriculum.

The National Diet Library, Japan

Two years ago the Library inaugurated an interlibrary loan system, through which books and other materials in its collections are made

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available to persons resident at remote points. To date this has been a one-sided operation; studies have been undertaken to determine the feasibility of a similar system to be conducted by local libraries.

A Reference and Bibliographical Room has been established in the General Reference Division, where 7,000 inquiries were received in 1952, and more than 10,000 in 1953.

In order to facilitate their accessibility, the reports of the Publications Board of the United States Department of Commerce have been photoduplicated and lent to the Prefectural Library in Osaka. During the calendar year 1955, additional sets will be made for loan to the central libraries in Nagoya and Kukuoka.

The General Assembly Library, New Zealand

The Library has recently purchased a microfilm camera with which it is microfilming all New Zealand newspapers (with eight exceptions) for permanent preservation. Some difficulty is at present experienced owing to the lack of suitable processing facilities in New Zealand but it is hoped that these will be overcome shortly and that copies of the films then will be readily available.

Bibliothèque Publique de la Régence de Tunis

Interlibrary loans are made. Theses printed in the universities of France are automatically being deposited. A microfilm collection has been initiated.

Biblioteca Nacional, Argentina

The Library cannot alter the nature of the services it offers.

Biblioteca Nacional, El Salvador

For the past few years four branches have been operated in the more densely populated sections of the city; the local home-lending service has increased; and with the cooperation of the Post Office Department, the extension of this service to outlying areas of the country is under consideration.

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Bibliographical Undertakings

RECENT Bibliographical and Cataloging Undertakings.

The British Museum

The new edition of the *General Catalogue* has been continued, as has the series of five-yearly volumes of the *Subject Index*. The latter publication fell seriously in arrears during the war, but plans have been made to overtake these arrears in the course of the next five years. In the meantime, discussions are proceeding on the possibility of bringing out a subject index at more frequent intervals and producing cumulations for the five-year periods.

The series of *Short Title Catalogues* of early printed books has been resumed. The British Museum published a short title catalog of its Spanish books in 1921, its French books in 1924, and its Portuguese and Spanish-American books in 1926 and a new edition in 1944. The text has now been completed of a short title catalog of Italian books before 1600, and work is proceeding on a similar catalog of German books. It is expected that this series will be completed, and that similar catalogs for later periods will be started in the next few years.

The *Catalogue of Incunabula*, which was begun in 1908, has been continued, and the text has been completed of the sections relating to the Netherlands and Spain. It is expected that the Netherlands volume will be published in the course of 1956, both in one volume and in two separate parts dealing respectively with Belgium and Holland, and that the whole work will be completed in 1958, fifty years after the publication of the first volume. It will be necessary to publish subsequently one or two supplementary volumes, containing corrections and additions.

The organization and compilation of the British Union Catalogue of Periodicals, while not strictly a British Museum activity, is being carried out in working quarters provided within the Museum. Three members of the Museum staff are also members of the Council responsible

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for the British Union Catalogue of Periodicals, the first volume of which is to appear during the summer of 1955.

In connection with the bicentenary of the British Museum, which was founded in 1753 and first opened to the public in 1759, a series of bicentenary publications has been initiated. This series will contain works of scholarship dealing with the history of the collections. The first volume will be concerned with the library of Lord Lumley, which came into the museum collections as part of the Royal Library in 1757. This will be followed by volumes on a 16th century inventory of the Crown Jewels and a volume on the Garrick collection of plays.

The National Central Library, London

The special union catalog of Russian books and periodicals and of German war-time publications have been virtually completed. The National Central Library has been closely concerned, as one of the sponsoring bodies, with the *British National Bibliography* and the forthcoming *British Union Catalogue of Periodicals*.

The National Library of Wales

With the additions to the staff made in 1954, the Department of Printed Books is making a special effort to overtake the large arrears of cataloging which exist because of the war and the shortage of staff from which the Library has suffered ever since.

Leabharlann Naisiunta na hÉireann (National Library of Ireland)

An Irish National Bibliography has been undertaken.¹

It has been decided to create this national bibliography by including in the card index all the printed material relating to Ireland which is already in the Library, and to supplement this by microfilms of printed books, pamphlets and newspapers which are discovered to be wanting in the collections. As the printed books, newspapers, maps, prints and drawings of Irish interest in the Library have already been catalogued, this involves only the typing on to cards of catalogue entries which have already been made for these items in our printed general catalogue and in other published catalogues of our special collections. The printed general catalogue is being checked with the catalogue of printed books of the British Museum to discover books and pamphlets of Irish interest which are wanting in our collections. It is being found that approximately twenty per cent of the printed material of Irish interest in the British Museum Library is not on our shelves. Cards for these items will be put into the National Bibliography and microfilms of the books will be obtained.

Bibliographical Undertakings

To collect information on the vast number of topics of Irish interest, the cataloguing of the articles printed during the past two hundred years in Irish periodicals and in a selection of periodicals published elsewhere becomes an essential part of our task. This can proceed only at a relatively slow rate, but within a few years it is hoped that we shall be able to deal with the contents of the more important learned periodicals published in Ireland. Over five thousand cards have already been made for two of the Irish archaeological journals.

The card catalogue for the National Bibliography is being prepared in four separate divisions under personal names, under subjects, under place names and under dates as a calendar of events.

Special apparatus has been devised to make the card index or any sections of it available to other libraries in Ireland or to libraries abroad, either in the form of 35 mm. microfilm or film cards. These methods will bring the National Bibliography to research workers in other countries without entailing the prohibitive cost of publication. It is calculated that the National Bibliography in its first stage will contain about 400,000 cards, and in its second and more detailed form it may eventually run to close on ten million cards.

Bibliothèque Nationale, France

In addition to progress on the two great enterprises, the *Catalogue Général des Livres Imprimés* and the *Inventaire du Fonds Français* of the Print Room, particular attention should be called to that which concerns (a) the revision of the official part of the *Bibliographie de la France* distinguishing sharply the numerically most important section, devoted to books, and the six supplements of which the last, covering French official publications is the work of the section described on page 60; (b) works on the history of the book carried on in the Rare Books Department; and (c) the publications relating to oriental manuscripts. Separate mention should be made of the part taken by the Bibliothèque Nationale in various union catalog projects, in the first place, the *Catalogue Collectif des Périodiques*; in the second place, the projects instituted under the Direction des Bibliothèques de France, e.g. the *Catalogue Collectif des Périodiques*; in the third place, the projects instituted under the Direction des Bibliothèques de France (e.g. the *Catalogue Collectif des Nouvelles Acquisitions Étrangères*, which between January 1, 1952, and December 31, 1954, had compiled 139,087 card entries from about 280 participants; and the *Inventaire Permanent des Périodiques Étrangères en Cours*, consisting on December 31, 1954, of 17,000 titles and 1,449 participants); and finally the collaboration of the chief keeper of the Department of Maps and Plans in the *Bibliographie Cartographique Internationale* and that of

his colleague in the Department of Music in the *Répertoire Internationale des Sources Musicales*.

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Florence

This Library, like the Library in Rome, is participating in the construction of the Italian Union Catalog. The project was begun in 1950, and is estimated to require twenty-five years for completion. A staff of specialists has been assigned to the work.

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Rome

The center of the union catalog of Italian libraries is in this institution. Work on it is still in the preparatory stage.

The administration continues to publish the *Bollettino* in which are listed foreign works acquired by Italian libraries, and the general index of incunabula held in Italian collections. Now in press is a new, revised and enlarged edition of rules for book cataloging.

Bibliothèque Nationale, Luxembourg

Since the war the Library has published annually the *Bibliographie Luxembourgeoise*, in order to supply periodic information about recent publications.

A subject catalog on cards is being compiled, which will very soon be placed at the disposal of readers.

Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Netherlands

To appear soon are catalogs of the post-incunabula printed abroad, and of the chess collection. Internally, progress is well advanced on the filing of the Dutch Union Catalog into a single alphabet, and a new Union Catalog of Periodicals in the libraries of government departments is being prepared.

Kungl. Biblioteket, Sweden

The major event in the field of bibliography was the creation, in December, 1952, of a Bibliographical Institute, as a department of the Royal Library. On January 1, 1953, the Institute took over the compilation of the National Bibliography which had previously been edited by the Publishers' and Booksellers' trade organizations. The Bibliographical Institute has also taken over responsibility for the Annual Union Catalog of Foreign Accessions which, since 1886, has been compiled by a special division of the Royal Library. This catalog lists all foreign titles acquired by the major research and special libraries of the country.

Bibliographical Undertakings

The cataloging rules and classification scheme in use at the Royal Library have been the subject of detailed study. It is hoped to complete a new code during the current year which will conform as far as possible to that long used in the National Bibliography and in the public libraries, and which may eventually be adopted by all major research libraries. In this way it is hoped to bring about greater uniformity in Swedish cataloging practice which, though mainly based on the Prussian code, has in the course of time developed a number of local variations, particularly in the matter of corporate entry and anonymous publications. If agreement can be reached on a new code, the next step would be for the Royal Library to attempt to supply, on the basis of the copy produced for the National Bibliography, mimeographed cards for the majority of the Swedish titles acquired by the depository libraries.

Schweizerische Landesbibliothek, Switzerland

Among the more important activities, particular mention should be made of the following:

1. The complete redrafting of the cataloging rules.
2. The publication of the *Répertoire du Livre Suisse 1948-1950*, which will be followed by quinquennial volumes.
3. The coordination of the Swiss, German and Austrian national bibliographies in order to stop the swallowing of Swiss books in the German language by the *Bibliographie der Deutschen Bibliothek* in Frankfurt, Germany, and implying the edition of a common index, independent of Switzerland's own semestrial and yearly indexes.
4. The preparation of the fourth edition of the union list of foreign periodicals in Swiss libraries.
5. The cutting, pasting on cards and assembling in one author file of all printed special bibliographies published annually in Switzerland, i.e. the *Bibliographia Scientiae Naturalis Helvetica*, the *Bibliographia Medica Helvetica*, the *Bibliographie de l'Histoire Suisse*, the *Schweizerische Bibliographie für Statistik und Volkswirtschaft*, the *Uebersicht der Literatur über Schweizerisches Recht*, and the *Documentation du Bâtiment*.

6. The setting up of shelf lists, formerly lacking, for different parts of the collections.

Milli Kütüphane, Ankara

The collection has been classified according to the Universal Decimal System. A committee of the National Library has standardized

cataloging rules, and has edited *Rules for Cataloging* under the sponsorship of the Turkish Library Association.

Publications include the Turkish National Bibliography, a bibliography of articles in Turkish periodicals and newspapers, a monthly list of periodicals received in the National Library, and a union list of foreign publications acquired by Turkish libraries. The bulletin of the Turkish Library Association is prepared in the National Library.

The Jewish National and University Library, Israel

The Library prepares and publishes the National Bibliography of Israel, a quarterly entitled, *Kirjath Sepher*, which lists Israel imprints, publications concerning Jews and Judaism issued throughout the world, irrespective of language, a selected list of scholarly articles from Israel and foreign periodicals on those subjects, and Hebrew contributions on bibliography and typography. In addition, the Library compiles an annual list of translations from other languages into Hebrew for the *Index Translationum*, which is issued by Unesco.

A list of scholarly periodicals has been prepared for inclusion in *The Directory of Asian Periodicals*, edited by S. R. Ranganathan on behalf of Unesco. Titles included are journals in Hebrew and other languages, which formerly appeared in Palestine and now appear in the State of Israel. Jointly with the Research Council of Israel, the Library has created a microfilmed catalog of Israeli holdings of literature in the natural and applied sciences.

The translation into Hebrew of the Abridged Dewey Classification, with the addition of an extended scheme for Judaic subjects has been made by the Jewish National and University Library in cooperation with the Cultural Department of the Federation of Jewish Labour.

The National Diet Library, Japan

Codes for the Nippon Decimal Classification and for the Subject Headings of the National Diet Library are being edited.

Publications acquired and processed by the Library are reported annually in *Current Acquisitions*. Formerly this was issued monthly or quarterly.

The *Japanese National Bibliography, Annual Edition*, published by the Library since 1948, is a comprehensive list of current Japanese imprints.

The Library also prepares and publishes the *Japanese Periodicals Index*. Separates of the Humanities and Social Science Section have been issued since 1948, and of the Natural Science Section since 1950.

Bibliographical Undertakings

The General Assembly Library, New Zealand

The scope of the copyright list is being extended to bring it more into line with the ideas of a current national bibliography. Publications relating to New Zealand published overseas and written by New Zealanders are being included in it.

Bibliothèque Publique de la Régence de Tunis

Since 1949, the Library has compiled *Informations Bibliographiques* on Tunisia, which appears quarterly in the *Bulletin Economique et Social de Tunisie*, published by the Résidence Générale.

Since 1950, the Library has prepared the *Liste des Ouvrages Incorporés à la Bibliothèque Générale de Tunisie*, which appears quarterly in the *Bulletin Officiel de l'Instruction Publique*, issued by the Direction de l'Instruction Publique et des Beaux Arts.

Every quarter the *Bulletin Economique et Social de Tunisie*, published by the Résidence Générale, contains three sections prepared by the Library: (a) Récapitulation annuelle des publications officielles (beginning in 1952), (b) Récapitulation des publications officielles de 1881 à 1951 (beginning with the issues of 1953), and (c) Liste du dépôt légal des ouvrages imprimés en français, starting in 1954.

Biblioteca Nacional de Guatemala

The Library has followed a classification system of its own making. Since 1945, however, it has applied the Dewey Decimal scheme to parts of the collection and has cataloged accessions in accordance with modern practice.

Biblioteca Nacional, Peru

Since 1945, the Biblioteca Nacional has used the Dewey Decimal table, as well as the Cataloging Code of the American Library Association. The Dewey table has had to be revised to meet Peruvian needs particularly in law (340), education (370), mathematics (510), literature (820), and the sections on the history of America (970) and Hispanic America (980).^{2, 3}

The Library has adopted a system of book numbers developed by Luis F. Málaga to "meet the needs of the Biblioteca Nacional del Perú in particular and of Peruvian and Latin American libraries in general." This scheme provides solutions to two problems of arrangement peculiar to libraries in Spanish speaking countries: (a) numbers for *ch* and *ll*, which are considered separate single letters in the Spanish

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alphabet and (b) numbers for compound surnames, which are common in Spain and Spanish American countries.

There are two prospective projects: (1) the organization of a cataloging press, in order that the printed cards of the National Library may be distributed to all the libraries of Peru, and (2) the publication of the Peruvian Catalog, either complete, such as the catalog of the Library of Congress, or in periodical form in the national library bulletin.

The next issue of *Fenix* will contain the first part of the course in classification which is given in the National Librarians' School and which, for the most part, constitutes a summary of the work of application and revision of the Dewey System in the National Library.

Biblioteca Nacional, El Salvador

The Library, since 1945, has published the *Anuario Bibliográfico Salvadoreño*. It has been entrusted with the task of completing a Salvadorian Bibliography on which a great deal of work had already been accomplished.

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Cultural and Intellectual Programs

PRESENT Participation in National and International Cultural and Intel- lectual Programs.

The British Museum

On the national level the British Museum has played a large part in fostering and supporting a number of cultural enterprises. Office space and library services have been provided for the British Union Catalogue of Periodicals and, as mentioned previously, the British National Bibliography. The chairman and secretary of the Union Catalogue of Music are also on the Museum staff, and facilities have been provided by the trustees for the compilation of this work.

The principal keeper was president of the Library Association during 1954, and the Keeper was chairman of its Executive Committee; the latter is also a vice president of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaus and has attended the international conferences of the International Federation of Library Associations and the International Federation for Documentation, and is a member of the International Advisory Committee on Bibliography of Unesco.

The trustees have been represented through three members of the Department of Printed Books on the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee of the National Central Library, and through the Keeper on the Scientific Library and Information Committee of the (National) Advisory Council on Scientific Policy.

In collaboration with University College and the cultural institutions of the various Scandinavian countries, sheaf catalogs have been compiled of recent Swedish, Danish, and Norwegian books in the British Museum and University College.

Advice is given to the Board of Trade on the question of Estate Duty on collections and libraries of national importance with a view to the protection of the national heritage.

The British Museum has six representatives in the recently formed Standing Conference of National and University Libraries.

LIBRARY TRENDS

Many members of the Museum staff are associated as officers or editors with the work of learned societies. It is not possible to give a complete list, but the following may be singled out: the vice president and the editor of the Royal Musical Association, the chairman of the British Branch of the International Association of Music Libraries and chairman of the British Institute of Recorded Sound, the secretary and editor of the Hakluyt Society as well as two honorary secretaries and the honorary treasurer of the Bibliographical Society.

The National Central Library, London

Through its librarian and its deputy librarian the National Central Library is closely concerned in the affairs of the Library Association; both serve on its councils and committees. The librarian has been for some years chairman of the Unesco Co-operating Body for Libraries and a member of the Unesco National Commission.

The National Library of Wales

The Library participates in the activities of Unesco, the Library Association, the British Records Association, the British Standards Institution, and other similar bodies. Parties of foreign visitors to this country under the auspices of the British Council have, on many occasions, visited the Library. The librarian-designate of the National Library of Pakistan spent some days at the Library in order to learn something of the work and methods of a national institution similar to his own.

Leabharlann Naisiunta na hÉireann (National Library of Ireland)

The Director of the Library is the Irish representative on the Cultural Committee of the Council of Europe and as the only librarian on this committee introduces proposals for European cultural cooperation in libraries and archives.

Bibliothèque Nationale, France

The learned librarians of the Bibliothèque Nationale have allowed their departments to become research centers for scholarly enterprises.

Various staff members are active in many national and international learned societies. Members also teach in the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, the École des Chartes and the École du Louvre.

The administrator-general has played a dominate role in bibliographical and library programs of Unesco.

Bibliographical activities have been extensive providing research

Cultural and Intellectual Programs

tools in many subject fields. The following parts of the *Manuel de la Recherche Documentaire en France* have been published with the aid of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique: *Géographie*, *Philosophie*, and *Sciences Economiques*, also the *Guide des Services Français de Photocopie et Photomicrocopie*. Another useful work is the *Catalogue Collectif des Periodiques, Paris et Universites de Province*.

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Florence

The Library participates in any cultural program which its cooperation would enrich. It has participated in a number of important exhibitions, such as the Music Book Exhibit in the spring of 1953 at the International Congress of Musicology in Florence; the Marco Polo Exhibit, at Venice, in 1954; and the Americus Vespucci Exhibit, in Florence. It has also contributed to foreign exhibits: Stockholm, 1947; Paris, 1950; Holland, 1952; and London, 1952.

Occasionally, the Library has been responsible for special events, such as the seminar on library science for American and Italian librarians in the spring of 1952.

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Rome

The Library has participated directly and indirectly in all bibliographic meetings, national and international, which have been held since the war. It will be represented at Brussels.

Bibliothèque Nationale, Luxembourg

The Bibliothèque regularly takes part in all national cultural celebrations such as expositions and commemorations. Its international program includes cooperation with the *Index Translationum* and the *Répertoire International des Sources Musicales*.

Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Netherlands

The Library's participation in national and international cultural and intellectual programs does not go beyond holding an occasional exhibition, and taking part in, and providing material for, those of other institutions.

Schweizerische Landesbibliothek, Switzerland

The Library periodically organizes exhibitions on special topics. By way of example it is currently presenting a display on "Romain Rolland and Switzerland." In addition, it contributes to exhibits produced in

other parts of the country and abroad. But because of the large number of cantonal and communal libraries, there are no properly national cultural and intellectual "programs" in Switzerland. The Library makes the Swiss contribution to such bibliographies as the *Index Translationum*, the *International Bibliography of Historical Sciences*, the *Bibliographie Cartographique Internationale*, and to a number of Unesco publications.

Milli Kütüphane, Ankara

The Library and the University are co-sponsoring a series of Saturday afternoon concerts; on Sunday afternoons, chamber music is presented under the Library's auspices. Lectures and educational films on cultural subjects are produced from time to time. On the international level, the Library actively cooperates with Unesco, and sends a representative to the annual international library meetings. Recently an international clearinghouse for educational materials has been established.

The National Diet Library, Japan

The National Diet Library is Japan's international exchange center, cooperating closely with Unesco and other exchange centers abroad. By law, it receives thirty copies of each Japanese official publication; these are intended for its own uses and for exchange with the more than twenty foreign institutions with which it maintains relations. Bibliographic materials and trade publications are also sent to other countries on exchange. The Library has participated in the program of the United States Book Exchange at Washington.

The Committee for the Improvement of Bibliographical Service, composed of representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Japanese Science Council, library associations, publishers, and the directors of the National Diet Library in charge of this subject, was organized in 1951. The Committee has cooperated actively with Unesco's International Advisory Committee on Bibliography, and submits to it the annual report on bibliographical service in Japan. T. Ichikawa, a director of the National Diet Library, is the corresponding member of the Advisory Committee.

The Library contributes the Japanese portion to the *Index Translationum*.

Recently a Joint Committee on Library and Documentation Service was established, with subcommittees on public library service, research library service, bibliographical service, microfilming and reproduction,

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classification, science abstracting, and terminology and nomenclature. Members of the staff of the National Diet Library are on each subcommittee, and take an important part in the discussion of nationwide professional problems.

A new type of librarian is emerging in Japan, who has his prototype in the librarian of advanced western countries. There must be further and constant training. It is hoped that the public can be educated to form a different opinion of the function and service of libraries and librarians.

Bibliothèque Publique de la Régence de Tunis

The following exhibits have been presented:

The Book Arts and Recent Acquisitions, 1950.

The Historical Geography of the Maghreb and the Ancient Navy, 1952.

Victor Hugo, 1952.

The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Société de Sciences Medicales de Tunis, 1952.

The Library's conservateur is on the jury which awards the prix littéraires de Carthage.

He gives instruction in the basic principles of bibliography at the Institut des Hautes Études, and teaches Arabian paleography and epigraphy at the Centre d'Études Islamique of the same institute. He participates actively in all the programs of Unesco.

Biblioteca Nacional, Cuba

The Library promotes exhibitions in honor of nationally and internationally celebrated personages, human rights, and outstanding historical events, designed to arouse public interest in the extension of Cuban culture.

Biblioteca Nacional de Guatemala

The Library is a cultural center for official programs, and for lectures by foreign and Guatemalan scholars.

South African Public Library, Cape Town

In 1952 the Library organized a large-scale exhibition "South Africa in Print" illustrating the development of printed sources of all kinds relating to South Africa, as part of the Tercentenary Festival in commemoration of the founding of the settlement in 1652. Through its

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activities as a library of copyright deposit, its international connections with the International Advisory Committee on Bibliography, its publications and bibliographical program, the South African Library already plays a part in national and international programs.

Foreign Travel

OBSERVATIONS on the State of the Librarian's Craft, Resulting from Foreign Travel.

The British Museum

This is perhaps a personal matter and it could not be said that the trustees or Museum staff have any official views on this subject. It can be stated, however, that members of the staff who have travelled abroad on library affairs, or to meetings of librarians, have returned with a firm impression of the stimulus which is to be derived from foreign contacts. Great practical advantages also accrue from the establishment of personal relations with librarians of other countries. In this connection it would be true to say that the British Museum has very wide contacts with both librarians and scholars.

The National Library of Wales

The present librarian has not yet had an opportunity of travelling abroad and visiting large libraries. He plans to visit libraries of the United Kingdom next summer.

Bibliothèque Nationale, France

Many members of the Bibliothèque Nationale have profited from the opportunity to visit libraries and professional colleagues in other countries. The administrator-general has visited during recent years, libraries in England and western Europe. He also spent two months in the United States visiting many libraries, and attending the San Francisco, U.S.A. conference of the American Library Association. Other staff members have visited far afield on a great variety of professional missions. One report of a study of the selection, reproduction, and diffusion of official documents has been published.¹ Details of these visits may be found in the administrator-general's report.²

Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Netherlands

The present librarian has had many opportunities for foreign travel

LIBRARY TRENDS

which have given an insight into the organization and the importance of foreign libraries, which certainly is very useful for his work. As general secretary of the International Advisory Committee on Bibliography and as a regular visitor of the meetings of I.F.L.A. he has seen many libraries in many countries. It goes without saying that the experience acquired in this way greatly enlarges one's professional knowledge and broadens one's view. This it is hoped and believed is to the benefit of the Royal Library.

Schweizerische Landesbibliothek, Switzerland

Two years ago, despite many difficulties, personnel exchanges of Swiss librarians with librarians of foreign libraries were initiated. In 1953, there was one exchange with the British Museum, in 1954 another with the Deutsche Bibliothek in Frankfurt, and this year one is planned with the Royal Library at The Hague. The duration of these exchanges is only one or two months, but nevertheless they are of high profit as well for the librarian concerned as for the Library itself, by the new ideas gathered on methods and techniques and by the general impulse the exchange librarian receives in seeing new horizons. The frequent travels undertaken by the director in behalf of I.F.L.A. and Unesco have been of the greatest importance to him, and have afforded him not only an opportunity for making instructive comparisons, and of keeping himself informed of new trends in other countries, all of which is very helpful for future planning, but also in establishing personal contacts which make international relations much easier. Thus, two years ago, a collaborator and himself, while attending the Deutscher Bibliothekartag, solved in a conversation of half an hour some problems of international loan pending between Germany and Switzerland.

Milli Kütüphane, Ankara

Foreign travel has enabled the librarian to observe and get acquainted with many foreign libraries. Much of practical value has been gained from this. Thus, for example, the working of a lending library system has had a deep effect on the librarian, and has stimulated him to set up the beginnings of a lending library system in Ankara under the sponsorship of the National Library. Many other concrete examples could be cited of how foreign travel has influenced the librarian and how much of practical experience has been gained from it.

Foreign Travel

The Jewish National and University Library, Israel

The director of the Jewish National and University Library, has described his impressions formed on his visits to libraries in the United States, in 1952.³ Among the aspects of American librarianship which he noted especially were: the prominent place of libraries in American cultural and social life, the social consciousness and sense of responsibility of the American librarian, the great attention paid to adult education, the flexibility in technique, the willingness to cooperate, as evidenced by bibliographical centers, cooperative purchase plans and interlibrary loan, and the stimulus provided by the Library of Congress in these activities working as it does on a high level of scholarship motivated by a spirit of democracy and humanitarianism.

The National Diet Library, Japan

So far, eleven members of the staff of the National Diet Library have been sent abroad to study library affairs. In summarizing their impressions it may be said that although the national libraries in Britain and France have long histories, their processing techniques have not achieved as much unity as have the procedures of the Library of Congress. An excessive knowledge of bibliography is required for reference work in Britain and France, whereas, in the Library of Congress, processing techniques are more responsive to reference demands. One colleague reported notable advances in legislative reference work attained by the Library of Congress and other libraries in the United States. There may be a disparity in the standards of the National Diet Library and the Library of Congress, because the National Diet Library is patterned on the Library of Congress of six years ago.

Bibliothèque Publique de la Régence de Tunis

The conservateur has participated in the Stage de Malmö, and has made a yearly journey to France to attend the meetings of French librarians. The director of the libraries of the interior has taken part in the Stage d'Ibadan.

Biblioteca Nacional, Cuba

The librarian, on a recent trip to Europe, observed that many Latin-American cataloging rules are being adopted.

LIBRARY TRENDS

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Personnel

PERSONNEL and Staffing Problems and the Causes Thereof.

The British Museum

Since the war there have been considerable developments in the more careful grading of library work and in the recruitment and organization of staff in relation to this grading. The British Museum is part of the British Civil Service, and its staff is graded accordingly. This results in certain anomalies, but these anomalies are gradually being removed as the Museum's experience of dealing with the new grades increases. The advantages to the staff of assimilation to general Civil Service grades is that pay and conditions of service can be maintained at a satisfactory level.

The grades employed in the Department of Printed Books of the British Museum are as follows:

Principal Keeper	Executive Officers
Keepers	Clerical Officers
Deputy Keepers	Library Assistants Grade I
Assistant Keepers Grade I	Library Assistants Grade II
Assistant Keepers Grade II	Paper Keepers Grade I
	Paper Keepers Grade II
	Messengers

The administration of the department is in the hands of the principal keeper, assisted by two keepers; sections of the work are controlled by deputy keepers, or, in certain cases, senior assistant keepers; the purchase, cataloging and classification and subject indexing of foreign publications is in the hands of assistant keepers, who also provide controlling staffs in the Reading Rooms and some of the divisions; the cataloging of current English books, and the manning of the Inquiry Desk in the Reading Room is in the hands of the executive grade; the service of books to the readers is in the hands of clerical officers and library assistants; routine operations, such as

stamping the books, are carried on by paper keepers. It must be emphasized that this is not a complete categorization of the duties of the various grades but it indicates broadly the tasks on which they are engaged.

The National Library of Wales

The Library has been seriously understaffed for some years. Her Majesty's Treasury, however, relaxed its regulations to the extent of allowing the appointment of three new Cataloging Assistants, with the promise of two more next year. This will ease the situation, but it is far from being a complete solution to the problem. The very substantial annual intake of material in the form of donations, deposits, and accessions under the Copyright Act (not to mention arrears in scheduling and cataloging) makes a further increase in staff indispensable to the proper functioning of the Library.

Bibliothèque Nationale, France

Personnel problems have been paramount. The Library is greatly understaffed especially among the library assistants and service groups, and good personnel is difficult to find.

The new statutes establishing the scales for government workers are generally satisfactory except for two groups. The first are those in service categories. The others are the conservateur levels. These, formerly, along with similar staff in the archives, at parity with the teaching staffs of universities, have been reduced.

Major steps have been taken to develop more adequate training for general and special librarians. For many years the official qualification for librarians was the *Diplôme Technique de Bibliothécaire*.

Preparation for the DTB as given at the *École des Chartes* was anything but satisfactory from the librarians' point of view. The technique and history of the manuscript and book was still heavily emphasized in the three-year curriculum to the almost complete neglect of such modern library subjects as cataloging, classification, and reader psychology. The *École des Chartes* remained primarily and ineradicably a school for archivists-paleographers. . . .

After the war, and before the reform came into effect, the *Direction des Bibliothèques* sought to make the program leading to the DTB more closely correspond to the realities of public librarianship, organizing supplementary lectures, introducing practical work, and sponsoring library visits.

The long-awaited reform finally became fact on July 29, 1950, when a ministerial order instituted the "*Diplôme Supérieur de Bibliothécaire*"

Personnel

(hereafter referred to as the DSB). The order profoundly changed French library education and the means of access to positions in libraries under the Direction des Bibliothèques.

Candidates wishing to take the examination for the DSB are not bound by age or nationality restrictions. They must, however, possess one of several certificates representing one or more years of higher education. This requirement sets the DSB far above the DTB, for which only the baccalauréat, or an equivalent diploma, was necessary.

The course of studies leading to the DSB is organized under the authority of the director of the Direction des Bibliothèques. He is assisted by a consultative committee made up of other prominent librarians and scholars from the Paris area. . . .

The DSB is a prerequisite for state library positions, with some exceptions, but does not of itself guarantee a position. Recruiting for libraries is accomplished by means of annual competitive examinations. The age limit is thirty-five years, except that candidates with previous service may be considered up to the age of forty. Candidates must have a university degree, at least equivalent to that of the license d'enseignement, as well as the DSB. However, five years service may be substituted for both the DSB and the university degree. . . .

The DSB program was devised to provide professional librarians of high caliber for both research and large public libraries. But the problem of creating a pool of competent technicians, if not professional librarians, for the small libraries, especially the unclassified municipal libraries, was also critical. A ministerial order of November 19, 1948, required mayors to pay a given minimum to any "certified librarian," now those with the DSB, or the old DTB, named to a library post. The not unexpected result in cities where mayors were not bound by law to hire state-certified personnel was a conscientious search for anyone but "certified librarians," who carried so high a price tag.

In order to provide a reserve of people at once possessed of minimal qualifications and receptive to more modest salaries than the DSB's, the Certificate of Aptitude for Library Functions was instituted by a ministerial order of September 17, 1951, then further modified in January 1952 and 1953.

To be eligible for the examination, candidates need only the baccalauréat or the brevet supérieur, both secondary school diplomas, the former meets university entrance requirements. In lieu of these diplomas, a candidate may achieve eligibility by passing an examination demonstrating a cultural level equivalent to that enjoyed by secondary-school graduates. The only preparation for the examination is a six-week period of instruction in an approved library.

The examination includes elementary questions on library organization and administration, history and technique of the book, bibliography and preparation of catalog cards. Special tests are given to candi-

dates who have spent an extra month in a hospital, factory, or children's library. Passing one of these tests entitles the candidate to a certificate bearing added acknowledgment of competence for work in the special field. The Direction des Bibliothèques hopes that the certificate will eventually be accepted by mayors as the minimum professional qualification for municipal library appointments.

Completing the library reform measures is the competitive examination for library assistant positions in the libraries within the Direction's sphere. In order to take the examination, candidates must possess the baccalauréat or brevet supérieur, or have ten years service in one of the state-controlled libraries. The age limit of thirty years may be extended by the number of years the candidate has already served in state libraries. The examination is held in October and covers the book, library administration and finance, preparation of catalog cards and bibliography. There is no official preparation for the examination. . . .

The achievements of the Direction des Bibliothèques since its founding less than ten years ago have been impressive. Library education is measurably improved; the central lending libraries are models of truly democratic library service; the continued progress of French public libraries seems assured. For all of this, the Association of French Librarians deserves a large share of the credit; an early and tenacious proponent of independent library schools, the Association was a leading force behind the creation of the Direction in 1945, and its influence remains strong as it continues to work in close liaison with that agency.¹

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Florence

The staff of the Library is employed by the state and as such comes under the Ministry of Public Instruction. Italian libraries are compelled to lament a lack of competent personnel, which is caused by modest salaries, unattractive to young people seeking a career; they, therefore, do not pursue library science courses.

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Rome

Professional librarians in Italy are required to have a broad cultural background. Those whose careers are distinguished are promoted through the ranks to higher levels, such as head librarian or keeper of manuscripts. At the top of the library hierarchy is the administrative director.

Bibliothèque Nationale, Luxembourg

The staff of the Library is seriously reduced and recruitment is ex-

Personnel

tremely difficult. This is because there are no laws regulating the entrance conditions and providing for advancement. Legislation for the purpose was drafted in 1947, but it has not yet been enacted.

Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Netherlands

Though the Library is in some respects understaffed, it is difficult to obtain authorization for the employment of additional permanent personnel. Moreover, there would be no point in engaging more desk workers, since it would be impossible to find accommodation for them in the present building. Low salaries make it difficult to get some types of personnel; book-stack attendants, especially, are mainly birds of passage.

Kungl. Biblioteket, Sweden

During the past two years the departmental organization of the Library has been reviewed and as a result a completely new organizational pattern on functional lines is being developed. The traditional division into a Swedish Department and a Foreign Department which both handled all technical and processing routines independently is being replaced by a new set-up which when completed will conform rather closely to the Continental and American model.

Schweizerische Landesbibliothek, Switzerland

The staff has been increased because of the rapidly growing volume of work in all departments. In 1946, it was composed of thirty-one persons, now there are thirty-nine, and a request for five new librarians is now pending in the Finance Department.

As to the problem of personnel, it may be said that the Library, together with Geneva and Basle, is the most instrumental in training young librarians. The Library constantly has from two to three volunteers preparing for the diploma of the Swiss Library Association. With the supply coming from the Library School in Geneva, it cannot be said that there is a shortage in crafts, although a young librarian does not have to look long for a job. Thanks to the efforts of the Library Association, which insists that only trained librarians be engaged, there is a distinctly higher level in the profession than prevailed as recently as ten years ago.

Millî Kütüphane, Ankara

There are two main problems. The first is to find properly trained personnel. This situation will soon be ameliorated because of the

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recent establishment of a Library Science School at the University of Ankara. The second problem is to keep librarians. The pay of a librarian at the National Library is very low, about the same as for an ordinary employee in the government, and it is rather easy for a well qualified librarian, especially one able to speak a foreign language, to find much better paid work outside the library field.

The Jewish National and University Library, Israel

Personnel and staffing problems are most acute due to the absence of a library school and the lack of sufficient fellowships for the foreign training of young librarians. Some mitigation of this difficulty has been effected by the participation of the staff of the Library in the giving of short courses in librarianship offered by the Cultural Department of the Federation of Jewish Labour. This is done with the support of the Jewish Library Association.

The National Diet Library, Japan

The staff of the National Diet Library is organized along three parallel lines, reflecting its services: (1) the librarian, (2) the legislative referencer, and (3) administrative personnel. These must work in the closest cooperation. One assistant chief librarian administers the Library, but the duties are so onerous and heavy that there is urgent need for another. Due to various reasons, such as financial, this has not been feasible up to now. The Library has no retirement and pension system. As a consequence the number of old men on the staff is increasing. This situation is not favorable to the development of the Library, but no early solution of the problem has been found.

High-ranking personnel, other than the directors and chiefs of section, should be treated more handsomely. But because salaries and the system of allowances are limited to those applying to ordinary government employees, nothing can be done about it. There is some in-service training, but the course needs to be planned more systematically.

The General Assembly Library, New Zealand

Staffing is still difficult owing to the lack of trained personnel. The opening of the Library School, part of the National Library Service, has alleviated the situation somewhat but there is still a considerable shortage.

Bibliothèque Publique de la Régence de Tunis

There is no problem. This Library is conducted by a staff one-third

Personnel

European and two-thirds Mohammedan among whom the archivist-bibliographer is the deputy to the conservateur and chief of the Oriental Section.

Biblioteca Nacional, Argentina

The Library has no personnel problems.

Biblioteca Nacional, Peru

In the course of travel abroad, and on the basis of objective and dispassionate comparison, the librarian became convinced of the high degree of competence attained by Peruvian librarians trained by the National Librarians School, functioning within the National Library. The entrance requirements of the school are identical with the requirements for entrance in the universities: a high school diploma and a series of examinations. The course of study covers a two-year period, and is both theoretical and practical. During the first year, instruction is given in cataloging, classification, and the organization of libraries; but in the second year, students work every morning for a month in each of the departments of the Library (except the Department of Cataloging and Classification where they remain for three months). This permits them to familiarize themselves with all the aspects of work in a great library, and complements the training they receive in classes on theory, which they take in the afternoons.

Library salaries in Peru, as in many other countries of the world, are not very high, a circumstance which creates several problems. One of these is the fact that only a small number of men become candidates at the school, and the much smaller number still who succeed in passing the entrance examinations; on the other hand, the number of female candidates is much larger, as is also the proportion of those passing the examinations, because, generally, the quality and cultural level of female candidates is much superior to that of the men.

Another of the inconveniences resulting from the situation is that some employees of the National Library, chiefly those in the middle of their library careers and in the middle of the administrative hierarchy, become separated from the institution in order to take higher paying positions, either in institutional libraries, or in commercial or industrial offices, where their professional library knowledge does not have direct application, but where their general culture and their training in order and classification prove to be useful.

Biblioteca Nacional, El Salvador

The Library does not have internal problems. At present, its per-

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sonnel is being instructed to solve the problems of library science. As a result of this training, the Library is about to complete a dictionary catalog.

South African Public Library, Cape Town

Education in librarianship has been effective in South Africa for a comparatively short time: the first school of librarianship was established only 15 years ago. Formerly, the Library relied on in-training for its recruits. With the rapid development of library services in all parts of South Africa during the post-war years, the shortage of qualified recruits has become acute, and the present facilities for training are insufficient.

The tendency at the South African Library, with its new emphasis on reference and bibliographical functions, is to recruit more specialized staff, particularly in view of the need to reorganize and recatalog the older collections.

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Interlibrary Relations

THE RELATIONS of the Library to Other Libraries and Research Institutions.

The British Museum

The British Museum is officially represented on the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee of the National Central Library for Students, the National Library of Wales, and the Brotherton Library at Leeds. On the personal level, the principal keeper is on the Governing Committee of the National Library for the Blind and is honorary librarian of the Royal Philharmonic Society, the keeper is on the library committees of the London School of Economics, the Lambeth Palace Library, and Sion College Library and another assistant keeper is on the Committee for the National Library for the Deaf.

Individual services offered to other libraries are the receipt and maintenance of books deposited on loan for the benefit of individual users; the loan of books for exhibitions; skilled professional advice on binding rare books; the provision of bibliographical information; the disposal of unwanted duplicate material both directly and through the British National Book Centre; the permanent preservation of books and periodicals discarded from smaller libraries; the demonstration of British Museum library services to assistants from other libraries and to students from library schools, printing schools, etc.

The National Central Library, London

Through its outlier library system the Library has very close relations with the specialized libraries of the country.

Bibliothèque Nationale, France.

The relations of the Bibliothèque Nationale are close and extensive with other libraries in France and abroad. The interlibrary loan system and document exchange are described elsewhere on pages 61 and 43.

LIBRARY TRENDS

Several exhibitions have been arranged of the Library's materials for showing notably in London and Lucerne. An exhibition of first importance of English books has also been displayed in the Library.

The National Library of Wales

The Library works in close cooperation with the National Central Library. It acts as the Bureau for north and central Wales in the Regional Libraries Scheme. It cooperates with the University of Wales in certain publications.

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Florence

The Library is in direct contact with the University of Florence and its library and with the other libraries of the city. By an agreement reached with them concerning acquisitions policy, duplication is reduced, the public is better served, and each library is enabled to specialize. The Library is also in touch with other Italian libraries and institutions, and makes its services available to them.

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Rome

The Library is in intermittent communication with other libraries concerning decisions relating to acquisitions.

Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Netherlands

The Royal Library maintains the Union Catalog of Books and two union catalogs of periodicals, and acts as the clearing center for unfilled requests from all Dutch libraries. Under the Libraries Cooperation Scheme unrestricted material can be borrowed from any library by any reader registered with one of them, and restricted material can very often be deposited for consultation at a library near the reader's home. As a result of the increasing volume of this traffic (an average of up to 400 daily requests now reach the Royal Library by mail alone) a separate Union Catalog Department is soon to be created. In the series and periodical field, there is extensive consultation between research libraries to avoid unnecessary duplication and fill lacunae.

Schweizerische Landesbibliothek, Switzerland

Owing to the absence of a common authority for all Swiss libraries, the relations of the National Library with others are established within the Library Association. But here they are very narrow and effective and lead to many common undertakings. The only care which has to be taken is not to hurt the cantonal libraries' feelings on regional mat-

Interlibrary Relations

ters, as they are rather touchy in this respect. On the whole, it can be said that the role of the National Library as a central organ of coordination and collaboration, and as the best qualified institution for representing Swiss libraries in international affairs, is now generally recognized.

Millî Kütüphane, Ankara

There is close cooperation with all government libraries, university libraries, and research institutions.

The Jewish National and University Library, Israel

The Library prepares reports and other material concerning the development of libraries in general for the Ministry of Education and Culture.

The Library takes an active part in the programs of the National Commission of Unesco. The director is a member of the Commission and of the Executive Board, and is the chairman of the Committee for Libraries and Literature. The Library is represented on the Committee on Microfilms (for photographing documents) and participates in the Committee on Natural Science Documentation which functions within the framework of Unesco. A special task of the Committee, in which the Library is most active, is the arrangement for the registration of all periodicals in the field of the natural sciences which are on file in the libraries of Israel.

The Library is represented on the administrative committee of the Institute of Hebrew Manuscripts, of the Ministry of Education and Culture, which films Hebrew manuscripts, and assists in cataloging and filing the reproductions. It supervises the libraries of the School of Education of the Hebrew University and the Ministry of Education and Culture in professional matters, and assists them in their current activities by purchasing books on their behalf. Cooperation with public libraries includes interlibrary loaning, the distribution of duplicates, and bibliographical and other professional assistance.

Librarians of the Jewish National and University Library take an active part in the organization of the Israel Library Association, the secretariat of which is located in the Library. The director is chairman of the Association.

The Library answers queries submitted by Unesco and serves as an intermediary between the Library Division of Unesco and the libraries of Israel. The director is corresponding member of the International Consultative Committee for Bibliography.

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The British Council has lent for an indefinite period about 12,000 volumes of their former library of the Institute of Higher Learning in Jerusalem. It has also contributed subscriptions to a substantial number of British periodicals. The British Standards Institute has requested and received cooperation on a classification scheme for Jewish subjects.

The Library of Congress sends to the Jewish National and University Library duplicates of its holdings and such important publications as its *Catalog of Printed Cards*. The Jewish National and University Library systematically supplies the Library of Congress with publications issued in Israel. The Library has received several thousand issues of chemical and other scholarly periodicals and several hundred books from the United States Book Exchange. The Smithsonian Institution is represented in Israel by the Jewish National and University Library, which distributes publications sent by it among Israel institutions. The United States Information Center in Israel contributes many volumes on American civilization to the Library.

A new exchange agreement has been concluded with the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. The French Consulate continues to contribute French books and periodicals.

Exchange relations are maintained with a total of forty-four countries. The volume of material sent and the number of exchange partners both increased in 1954, by twenty-four per cent more than in 1953.

The Library serves as a depository for the publications of the United Nations, Unesco, the International Labour Organization and other bodies affiliated with the United Nations; and for the printed catalog cards of the Library of Congress. The Library has been for many years a member of the International Federation of Library Associations.

The National Diet Library, Japan

The Branch Libraries Division of the National Diet Library is responsible for coordinating and improving relations with branch libraries located in government offices. The law provides that the National Diet Library shall assist local libraries in parliamentary assemblies or prefectures, and to this end the Branch Libraries Division has prepared a *Guide for Local Parliamentary Libraries*.

The Special Library Association and the Research Library Association were established with the support of the National Diet Library. The secretarial work of these two organizations is performed by the Branch Libraries Division.

Interlibrary Relations

The General Assembly Library, New Zealand

The General Assembly Library is closely connected not only with the other two national libraries but, through the interlibrary loan system of the New Zealand Library Association, makes available much of its collections to public libraries throughout the country. Its librarian is a member of the Book Resources Committee of the New Zealand Library Association which is responsible for coordinating as far as possible book purchases for the Dominion and for the organization to make the best use of the country's book resources.

Bibliothèque Publique de la Régence de Tunis

The Library conducts intensive correspondence with the libraries of the world such as the Library of Congress, the Library of Pretoria, the Bibliothèque Nationale of Algiers, the Bibliothèque Générale de Rabat, libraries in Warsaw, Uppsala, Jogjakarta, and especially the French scientific institutes of orientalism in Cairo, Damascus, and Istanbul.

Biblioteca Nacional, El Salvador

Inquiries of a bibliographical nature are constantly received from various institutions, both scientific and literary. These are given most careful attention.

South African Public Library, Cape Town

Although eclipsed in size and resources by newer library services, the South African Library retains its historical relationship with other libraries in the Union, lends from its resources through the machinery of interlibrary loan, and participates in general library affairs through the South African Library Association, of which it is an institutional member.

Publishing

RECENT Trends in Publishing.

The National Library of Wales

The Library publishes an Annual Report, and the *Journal of the National Library of Wales* appears regularly twice a year, in May and October, and is sent to libraries and other learned institutions in all parts of the world. A new venture is the annual publication of the *Bibliotheca Celtica*, a record of books and articles relating to the Celtic countries, their history, languages and literatures. It is hoped that each issue will be published about May every year and will cover material which has appeared during the previous calendar year. The first volume of this new series has already been published. *Gwaith Lewis Glyn Cothi* (the works of Lewis Glyn Cothi, a fifteenth century Welsh poet), edited by E. D. Jones, keeper of manuscripts and records, has been published under the joint imprint of the Library and the Press Board of the University of Wales.

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Florence

Since 1886, the Library has published the *Bollettino della Pubblicazioni Italiane Ricevute per Diritto di Stampa*. It occasionally produces exhibit catalogs.

Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Netherlands

The Royal Library publishes very little, so that it is not possible to speak of trends in this respect.

Millî Kütüphane, Ankara

There is a decided emphasis on union lists.

The Jewish National and University Library, Israel

Since Hebrew is the language of the younger generation, publishers are supplying in increasing numbers translations into Hebrew of foreign literature in scientific and general scholarly fields and even more in belles lettres. There is an important movement in progress to re-issue and translate from other languages standard books in Jewish

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history and religion in both scholarly and popular editions. Since the establishment of the state, publishers have been meeting the needs of the mass of new immigrants who are learning the Hebrew language on all levels.

Besides the Magnes Press of the Hebrew University, there is now a new scientific press, instituted by the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Research Council of Israel, the Hebrew University, the Technion of Haifa, the Weizmann Institute, and Mossad Bialik (also a publisher), which is known as the Israel Scientific Press.

The National Diet Library, Japan

Since its inception, the National Diet Library has published the following records of library materials: *Current Acquisitions*, the *Japanese National Bibliography*, the *Japanese Periodical Index*, the *General Catalog of Government Publication*, and the *Publications Board Reports Bulletin*.

For the public it has issued: a *Guide for Readers in the National Diet Library*, a *Guide for Readers in the Branch Libraries*, *Dokusho Shunju* (a monthly), *Biblos* (a monthly), an annual report, and a monthly official bulletin.

The Legislative Reference Service has released a periodical, *Reference*, a monthly *Research Bulletin*, a monthly report on *Japanese Economic Indicators*, and an *Index of Japanese Legislation*.

Biblioteca Nacional, Argentina

The Library's *Revista* is intended to publicize old unpublished documents in its custody.

Biblioteca Nacional, Cuba

The trend is toward the publication of special bibliographies.

Biblioteca Nacional, El Salvador

The Library's publication, *Anaqueles*, is a periodical review of literature and a national bibliography.

South African Public Library, Cape Town

The South African Library initiated its *Quarterly Bulletin* in 1946, including a classified current national bibliography, which is still retained. The *Grey Bibliographies* series has served to fill some of the gaps in the national bibliographical equipment. The Library is at present the editorial headquarters of *South African Libraries*, the official quarterly organ of the South African Library Association.

Summary

THE MANAGING EDITOR has decreed that this number must have a "summarizing chapter," containing "observations on this important phenomenon of librarianship: the national library." He insists that the "world needs to know what a national library is, where they come from, what seem to be their basic functions." Perhaps he is right; perhaps the world will one day hit upon a definition; but the foregoing statements (limited, as they are, to institutions in the free world) provide ample evidence of the fact that just now national libraries are in ferment; that they are wondrously complicated organisms; that whereas some among the newer institutions are frankly imitative, most are conspicuously differentiated one from another; that they defy or elude simple categorization; that they have come to possess separable personalities and bear proud markings of dissimilarity.

In consequence, there is danger of blurting out inanities, for national libraries have but few common characteristics and to every one, generally applying, it would be possible to adduce an exception. Perhaps it could be accurately, albeit redundantly, said that most national libraries are maintained primarily at public cost with funds allotted from, and disbursed by, national treasuries. Again, it might be represented that most national libraries are parts of national governments; that some are directly subordinate to ministries of education or parliamentary bodies, whereas others have attained a degree of greater autonomy, but are nonetheless ordinarily subject to the policy controls and decisions of superior and officially-constituted boards or commissions.

Arundell Esdaile, an authority on the subject, writing in 1934, referred to "that comparatively modern product, the national library," adding that "the idea of a national library has for over a century, and for longer still, if we consider it rightly, been expanding."¹ It is expanding now.

National libraries have had various origins. Some, for example, were established for the purpose they presently serve. Others came to being as a result of the dedication to public use of great private collections. Many have developed into their contemporary stature through a gradual extension of their privileges and facilities to an ever-enlarging patronage.

Summary

Either from their beginnings or along the way, national libraries were recognized as the natural conservatories of the records of their peoples' genius however expressed, whether in print, or in manuscript, or facsimiled on film, or in musical notation, or in embossed characters, or in glyphs; whether charted on maps and graphs, or depicted, or reproducible from captured sound. As preservers of the national literature, national libraries were designated as legal depositories and offices of record for the products of the national press.

Thus they became the principal source of information for the compilation of current national bibliographies. Once the work of private and commercial organizations, there was now to be a trend on the part of national libraries themselves to assume responsibility for the preparation and publication of national bibliographies, and to the extent that the techniques employed bibliographically are compatible with their somewhat rigid cataloging practices, national libraries are thereby enabled and compelled to achieve currency in processing the issues of their domestic press.

Inherently the collections of national libraries are encyclopedic in their range and coverage, and because the lives and fortunes of the people they exist to serve are conditioned by the civilizations and societies and progress of other peoples, national libraries must acquire substantial portions of foreign literature in every field and discipline. This obligation is an obligation to collect materials abroad in quantities and concentrations beyond the duty and abilities of the other learned libraries of the land to collect for themselves.

To this end, national libraries engage in large-scale undertakings of exchange. Some of these are arranged by agreements diplomatically negotiated through foreign offices and embassies and departments of state; others are fulfilled in response to private contracts. As old as Vattumare, the smaller, post-war world would seem to have given fresh impetus and new urgency to international exchanges.

Implicitly, then, national libraries are universal in scope. But apart from such routinized sources of accession as copyright deposits, exchanges and intra-governmental transfers, the greatest asset to, and assurance of, their development is prestige. For they flourish most in those communities where their strivings and aspirations and capacities are best understood, are generally approved, and are widely honored. Their prestige is measurable primarily in terms of the eminence of their staffs, the amounts of their annual appropriations, the dimensions of their endowments, and the quality of the gifts of material they attract. National libraries, to a far greater extent than is generally

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realized, are dependent for their steady enrichment on private, public-spirited, patriotic, generosity.

In addition to the functions of internal management, the administration of a national library is the administration of relationships: relationships with other agencies of government, with learned societies and professional associations, with universities and colleges, with collectors and connoisseurs, with statesmen and scholars, with industrialists and philanthropists, with scientists and technicians, with authors and publishers, with outstanding leaders in every noble cause and the semi-anonymous and unexceptional citizenry, with the press and the pulpit, with fellow-craftsmen and the anointed disciples of librarianship at large. For it seems to be a rule of life that where national libraries prosper, their activities are identifiable with, and allied to, the interests of many and diverse groups.

All national libraries do not occupy the same position in the library systems of their country. Some may conceivably be independent or aloof; others are legally charged with fixed responsibilities and firm primacy; others still, exercise authority loosely and only by common consent. No national library is, perhaps, quite exempt from rivalry and competition dissidence and the threat of pretenders, and, on the whole, this is salutary for national libraries. It keeps them alive and alert; it makes them show cause for their persistence; it rouses them to contemporaneity; it adduces them to bestir themselves.

But whatever their status in the library scheme, there is gratifying evidence that in many parts of the world the national library's pursuits are integrated with the pursuits of other types of libraries. Not only for itself but for those others as well, the national library is devising, developing, and refining technical standards and promoting their general adoption. It is compiling, publishing, and distributing codes of sound practice. It is performing functions of centralized catalogation through the printing of cards and making them available to other institutions. Either as the initiating force or as a cordial participant, the national library is involved in great, cooperatively sponsored, bibliographical enterprises in the national interest.

Precisely because they are national, national libraries are constructing union catalogs of printed books and other research materials. Thus it is possible for them readily to locate unique, uncommon, or unusual works and to make them available to scholarship by acting as clearing-houses for interlibrary loans. Thus, too, it is possible for them to appraise the resources of a nation's libraries, to discover their deficiencies, and economically to undertake joint acquisitions programs for

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their improvement. By reference to union catalogs, excessive or needless or expensive duplication can be minimized. Not only are union catalogs conducive to the betterment of the nation's collections considered in their totality, but they provide arguments for moderation or abstinence on the part of the national library, and for the fusion of its objectives with the objectives of other institutions however tenuously they may be constitutionally affiliated.

From this it follows that in one important aspect a national library, at its best, is a libraries' library. It provides them with materials superfluous to its own needs. It undertakes studies and investigations which are beyond their capacities singly to attempt and shares its findings with the rest. It contributes to their wise planning. It is their champion and advocate. It is a reservoir of large experience and intensive specializations, and content at once profound and vast, on which all may draw. It is neither master nor servant but is inseparably part of themselves.

Presently national libraries are manifesting an excited interest in gadgetry. They are experimenting with contrivances of many kinds, designed for the "simplification" of their technical processes and reference procedures. Perhaps the Age of Mechanized Librarianship is at hand. There may be those who feel that the need of personal mediation between men and materials will one day be removed and librarians will be superseded by intuitive engines and the chauffeurs of literacy. This is in no way intended to disparage the prevalent enthusiasm; it is inescapable and contagious; it may lead to practical adaptations and to benign consequences. The worst that can be said in criticism of the vogue or fashion is that it may be wastefully diversionary from other and more pressing concerns. At this juncture it is too early to stand in judgment, but as a "trend" it cannot be ignored.

Many national libraries have installed or propose to install well-equipped photographic laboratories. These provide an alternative to the loan of rariora by supplying applicants with reproductions at moderate cost. Where reproduction of many pages is required, the usual medium is microfilm. This has several advantages: it is relatively inexpensive; it is, when carefully exposed, satisfactorily durable; and, for the largest group of purchasers, which is composed of other libraries, it is convenient to shelf. Microfilm reproductions now represent, numerically, a large part of the collections of national libraries, where special reading rooms, with appropriate projectors and ancillary apparatus, have been set apart for their examination.

The regard in which microfilm is held cannot be said to be unani-

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mous, but it is generally considered in terms of a *faute de mieux*. For infrequently or briefly or casually consulted series, it provokes no serious qualms. It is a means of transferring and preserving the contents of newspapers originally printed on wood pulp. It can be used economically for making "service" or "insurance" copies. It can, when necessary or expedient, be restored to legibility either by enlarging it upon a screen or by making enlargement prints from it.

But aside from microfilm, there are now on the market reproductions of library materials made commercially by many other processes of microphotography or microprinting. These, collectively, constitute a formidable body of sub-publication. Their eccentricity of format creates no storage problems, but the fact that each type can be satisfactorily enlarged only on its own especially designed projector, which in itself calls for a not inconsiderable investment, deprives them of some of their general applicability. How national libraries will resolve the dilemma remains to be seen, but it is possible that, working in concert with other libraries, something can and will be done to reduce their multiplicity.

No national library can be greater or perform better services than its financial support allows. This is to state the obvious, but it explains why it is so heartening to learn that the budgets of many national libraries have been increased in the decade following the second war. Even so, it is extremely doubtful that anywhere they have attained adequacy. Until they do, national libraries will not realize their potentialities and confer their fullest benefit upon their constituencies. Meanwhile, they must fall short of the expectations of the uninformed, and operate by compromise and makeshift.

For the older and larger national libraries the situation is, perhaps, peculiar. Their glory is the glory of a continuum. They have survived fires and floods, wars and invasions, occasional periods of public apathy and indifferent direction. They have achieved dignity and renown and distinction. The value of their collections is incalculable. The sum of the funds devoted to their operation through the years, if tabulated, might be surprising even to themselves. Their roots run firm and deep. They are, today, administered with competence and imagination. They are neither old nor listless. They are mature. They are the product of their own tradition, their own practices, their own experience, their own past accomplishments, and their own present preoccupations. Their condition is enviable and admirable.

But are there limiting factors? It may be that the answers are esoteric, metaphysical, exquisitely subtle, but the questions persist.

Summary

Have they given precious hostages to fortune? Are the older and larger national libraries, for example, resistant to an augmentation of their activities? Quite obviously not, for, as previously stated, many have assumed and are assuming, new functions. But are these new functions merely extensions, or developments, of old, familiar and congenial labors? Could they, in other words be classified as objectives long denied and only recently authorized?

Are the older and larger national libraries opposed to innovation? The evidence would seem to deny it. Perhaps, then, it would be fairer to enquire if they are only hesitant to reverse their fields, change their course, and adopt new emphases. This would seem a reasonable explanation. For that, if imposed upon them, could mean a repudiation of the way they had come to greatness, the scrapping of a national capital investment, and the abandonment of tested and cherished achievements. It may be that the older and larger national libraries have developed a momentum that thrusts them forward, that makes them expand, but is lacking a magic to transform themselves. Perhaps they are confined to the patterns time has made for them.

But there have been instances where older and larger national libraries have, whether by default, or impotence, or enforced surrender, or unwitting consent, allowed national library functions and services to devolve on new and separate institutions. These new institutions are not always completely independent. Not infrequently the national libraries are represented on their governing boards, where they can exert some influence and insure cooperation. But what wise purposes are served by these alienations of responsibility and diffusions of authority?

Again, it is perfectly clear that the older and larger national libraries are pre-eminent centers for research and the patient tedium of scholarly investigation, but is it possible that they are not always so organized as to permit effective and "spot" reference service? If this is not possible, why is it that in so many cases they have forfeited that requirement to special libraries and information bureaus. This would seem to be conspicuously the case in the fields of the natural and applied sciences. Perhaps it is because the size of the collections in the older national libraries and considerations of practicality and economy prohibit the molecular separation and identification and analysis of subject-content which are essential in the day-to-day experiments in the laboratories and in the testing rooms of factories. This suggests that in the future national libraries may organize their collections and services in two parallel but distinguishable lines: the

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humanities being treated in accordance with established bibliographical principles, and the natural sciences and technology being processed by the newer and more elaborate methods of documentation and automation. Otherwise, national libraries may become the repositories of material only for retrospective or historical study, and thereby influence the present only by precedents and examples.

It would seem to be not unlikely, however, that the trend toward a dispersion of national library functions will soon spend itself, and will be succeeded by re-unification and reintegration. Satisfactory administration would appear to demand it. Moreover, the diffusion will almost certainly be arrested by improvements and renovation in physical plants. For some, new buildings or extensions have been completed; for others, new buildings are in course of construction; for others still, new buildings are on the drawing boards. These will not be the monumental piles erected by a previous generation, with ornate lobbies, and gilded halls, and "grand" stairways. Modern architecture, with insistence on functional adequacy, will not only relieve overcrowding and correct clumsiness, but will permit the execution of functions and services long deferred or relinquished or temporarily abandoned largely because of spatial constrictions and want of applicable funds.

In some regions of the earth, the progress of national libraries has been seriously retarded by the prolongation of the Cold War. Intellectual and cultural advances cannot be constant and consistent in a climate of fear, suspicion, and despair.

And yet, partially offsetting this uneasy and untoward abatement, is the fact that as new states and new sovereignties come to being, the establishment of national libraries is among the early objects of governments. This convincingly attests to the respect held for the achievements of their counterparts throughout the world. Moreover, in those nations where modern librarianship has not been fully developed, schools of library science and service are being conducted, either directly or indirectly, under the sponsorship of national libraries. It is not unusual for national libraries to provide quarters and secretarial assistance for the professional library associations.

The personnel of most national libraries is part of the national civil service. It has been occasionally difficult to persuade the classifying officers of the grades and salary levels required for professional librarianship, but much has been and is being accomplished along that line. The staff of a departmentalized national library must be administered by experts comparable to a university faculty. In addition to

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men and women trained in the arts of cataloging, classification, acquisition, reference, and general bibliography; national libraries require competent musicologists, geographers, scientists, archivists, lawyers, linguists, and other scholars of highly specialized abilities. These must be capable not only of understanding the collections for themselves but of interpreting and propagating them in behalf of the public. That national libraries have succeeded in securing the services of so many distinguished representatives of the world of learning is a further indication of the intangible and imponderable, but sensitive and exhilarating compensations which are their dowries.

It may be that there is an increasing public awareness of the capacities and resources of national libraries. Certainly the libraries themselves are more conscious than ever before of their opportunities affirmatively to contribute to national life. They no longer shun publicity, nor disdain popularity. On the contrary, they cheerfully, openly, welcome both. It should be understood, however, that this stems from no selfish conceits, or impulses for arrogant charity, or instincts for dominion, but from a new and quickened sense of duty to their second privilege. If it is their first privilege to conserve the records of the past for a future infinite and eternal, it is their second privilege to justify conservation in terms of widest usefulness and the promotion of understanding. This may, as it often does, require delicate balances and rare detachment, for neither preservation nor utility can be mutually exclusive. This realization is radical and revolutionary.

For whereas the accent may have been once thrust harder upon the doctrine of immobility, the penitentiary, the mortuary, or the deep freeze, national libraries are now become extrovert and gregarious. They have allied themselves with their own days. They are taking a chance on the present. They have aligned themselves with immediacy. They are risking their materials to accidents of transit and are sending them on loan to remote places where they cannot supervise the treatment accorded them. They are preparing exhibits at once edifying and enjoyable, and are sending them on tour. They are opening their halls for lectures and concerts; the subjects of the lectures and the music selected for the concerts do not have to be recondite, precious or beyond the appreciation of the average citizen and other mythological characters in the audience. They are publishing bulletins, bibliographies, facsimiles, and annotated texts. The libraries of the free nations of the world are defending the freedom to inquire and the freedom to inform. They are alert to resist and combat any force

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that would restrain mankind from the accumulated knowledge so hardily gained by the human family.

Of course, national libraries are instruments of national policy: of national policy in education; of national policy in research; and, to some indefinite, unspoken, unrealized extent, of national policy in foreign relations. For national libraries are not grim memorials, or beautiful monuments, or hallowed shrines that visitors from abroad view with approval or disapproval. National libraries are the resort of searchers from overseas or across boundaries. Their quest is truth. When a national library contains and discloses truth, it fulfills its purpose and confirms its power.

This is important for the reason that, as an instrument of national policy, a national library might be committed to distort, dissemble, disguise, degrade, even to destroy, the verities. An Orwellian imagination could convert national libraries to infamy and outrage and the ultimate perversion.

Happily among the Western powers, at least, there is a comity of national libraries, an understanding of common problems, constant intercourse, the occasional interchange of personnel. Their directors are on familiar terms with one another. In response to invitation they make official visits. They meet as delegates at sessions called by I.F.L.A. and F.I.D. and Unesco. They undertake joint programs. They collaborate in the cause of universal copyright. They agree upon international standards. Together they make discoveries and find solutions. They debate practices and give counsel. There are now the beginnings of a confraternity, based on confidence, conspicuity and courage; dedicated to the shimmering shadow of an image that may be, must be, coming into sight, whose advent has been too long awaited and too long delayed, bearing a promise and exacting zeal. National librarians are well enough stocked with fervor; the rest will be up to peace.

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A Note on the Library of Congress

Without explicit designation, the Library of Congress, at Washington, performs those basic functions which characterize the work of a national library. How, in the course of a century and a half, it came to occupy its present position as the principal library of the Government of the United States, and how its purview has, by the direction and with the assent of Congress, gradually widened, has been recounted in *The Story Up To Now* (Washington, 1947), and in the Appendix, "Library of Congress: Congressional Enactments Regarding Its Use," to United States Congress, Senate: *Legislative-Judiciary Appropriations, 1955, Hearings Before a Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations*, (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1954, p. 99-127).

A conspectus of the Library's present course has had to be deferred, for the time being, for the reason that it would be premature. Luther H. Evans presided over the Library from the closing days of the second world war until the summer of 1953, when he resigned to become director general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. His administration is, in other words, already historical. It has been historically summarized in the introductory chapter of the *Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1953* (Washington, 1954). Thereafter, for more than a year, Chief Assistant Librarian Verner W. Clapp, conducted the Library's affairs. Then, on September 1, 1954, L. Quincy Mumford took office as the eleventh librarian of Congress. A period had closed; another had just begun. There are adjustments to a new environment. Practices are being re-evaluated. Existing policies are being re-considered. Plans and purposes are being carefully formulated. It is too early to discern new directions, altered perspectives, or revised enunciations of objectives. These are in the making. They will be forthcoming.

On the other hand, the status and activities of the Library of Congress are so well known to, and so thoroughly understood by, American librarianship as not to require inclusion here. It is, perhaps, the most completely fenestrated institution of its kind in the world. Its weekly transactions may be seen in the pages of the *Information Bulletin*; its exertions of each year are observable in that extended chronicle, the *Annual Report of the Librarian*; its notable accessions are described in the *Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions*; its technical developments can be watched in *Cataloging Service*; its relations to Congress are reflected in *Hearings before Committees on Appropriations*; its dramatic moments are exhibited in the columns of the public press.

Informed readers of this number will be impressed by the many parallels of the Library of Congress with the national libraries of other lands.

Conclusion

L'Editeur en Chef a voulu que soit ajouté à ce numéro un "chapitre récapitulatif" qui rassemblerait "des remarques générales sur cet important et remarquable phénomène que sont dans le monde des Bibliothèques, les Bibliothèques Nationales." Il affirme avec insistance que le "monde a besoin de savoir ce qu'est une Bibliothèque Nationale, a besoin de connaître leurs origines, et aussi ce que sont apparemment leurs fonctions." Peut-être a-t-il raison: peut-être le monde découvrirait-il un jour une définition valable. Mais les constatations précédentes, toutes limitées qu'elles soient aux institutions du monde libre, apportent suffisante évidence du fait que les Bibliothèques Nationales sont précisément en période d'active transformation: qu'elles sont des organismes étonnamment complexes: que, si quelques unes parmi les plus récemment créées, ont ouvertement copié leurs aînées, la plupart d'entre elles ont une originalité bien marquée: qu'elles défient ou échappent à une simple classification: qu'elles possèdent des personnalités bien distinctes et portent fièrement les marques de leur dissemblance.

Il en résulte que le danger est grand de laisser échapper des affirmations mal fondées. Les Bibliothèques Nationales n'ont que peu de caractéristiques communes et à chacune de ces caractéristiques, ou presque, nous pourrions trouver une exception. Peut-être pourrions-nous dire avec exactitude, nous répétant, que les dépenses engagées pour le maintien des Bibliothèques Nationales sont à la charge des Pouvoirs Publics, les fonds nécessaires étant attribués et déboursés par les Trésoreries Nationales. Peut-être pourrions nous aussi rappeler que les Bibliothèques Nationales font, dans bien des cas, partie de l'Etat: que quelques unes d'entre elles sont directement subordonnées soit au Ministère de l'Education Nationale, soit au Parlement, tandis que d'autres ont atteint un plus large degré d'autonomie, tout en restant néanmoins soumises dans la conduite de leurs affaires aux contrôles et aux décisions de conseils ou de commissions supérieures créés par le gouvernement.

Arundell Esdaile, une autorité en la matière, mentionnait en 1934

Translated by Jeanne Anne Foreman, member of the Circulation Staff, University of Illinois Library.

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"that comparatively modern product, the national library," ajoutant que "the idea of a national library has for over a century, and for longer still, if we consider it rightly, been expanding." Cette expansion se poursuit.

Les Bibliothèques Nationales ont des origines diverses. Ainsi, certaines ont été établies exprès pour remplir le rôle qu'elles ont actuellement. De larges collections privées rendues accessibles au public sont à l'origine de plusieurs autres Bibliothèques Nationales. Nombreuses sont celles qui ont atteint leur développement actuel par une extension progressive de leurs privilèges et de leurs facilités à une clientèle sans cesse grandissante.

Soit dès leur création, soit au cours de leur développement, les Bibliothèques Nationales ont été considérées comme les naturels dépositaires de tous les documents exprimant le génie de leur peuple, quels que soient ces documents: imprimés, manuscrits, fac-similés sur films, partitions musicales, en gravure ou glyphe, cartes et graphiques, enregistrements pris sur le vif. Préservatrices de leur littérature nationale, les Bibliothèques Nationales étaient toute désignées pour servir de dépôt légal et grouper tous les documents relatifs à la production des presses de leur pays.

Elles devinrent ainsi les principales sources d'information pour l'établissement de bibliographies nationales sans cesse mises à jour. Il semblerait que se dessine actuellement une tendance des Bibliothèques Nationales à assumer les responsabilités de la préparation et de la publication des bibliographies nationales qui, jusqu'alors, étaient laissées à des entreprises commerciales privées, et dans la mesure où les techniques employées en matière de bibliographie sont compatibles avec les règles quelque peu rigides qu'elles ont adoptées pour l'établissement de leurs catalogues, les Bibliothèques Nationales ont été mises à même, et actuellement obligées, d'accomplir sans délai les diverses opérations, que doivent subir les nouvelles acquisitions d'une bibliothèque, avant que leur utilisation ne soit possible.

Par nature, les collections des Bibliothèques Nationales sont encyclopédiques. Parce que la vie et le destin des peuples qu'elles existent pour servir sont déterminés par la culture et les progrès des autres peuples, les Bibliothèques Nationales sont dans l'obligation d'acquérir une importante partie de la littérature étrangère, touchant aux sujets, aux disciplines les plus variés. Cette obligation s'étend à la fois en quantité et en densité bien au delà de l'obligation et des possibilités qu'ont les autres bibliothèques d'acquérir pour leurs collections ces publications étrangères.

Dans ce but, les Bibliothèques Nationales procèdent à des échanges, et ce sur une large échelle. Certains de ces échanges sont le résultat de conventions négociées par les différents Ministères des Affaires Etrangères et les différentes Ambassades: d'autres sont la conséquence d'arrangements privés. Il semblerait que dans le monde réduit d'après guerre, aussi vieux que Wattemare, un nouvel élan et une nouvelle vigueur aient été donnés aux échanges internationaux.

Implicitement, donc, le champ d'action des Bibliothèques Nationales est universel. Mais, mises à part les méthodes les plus ordinaires d'acquisition, le dépôt légal, les échanges et les transferts intergouvernementaux, le prestige dont elles jouissent est le meilleur atout des Bibliothèques Nationales, la meilleure garantie de leur développement. Elles sont surtout florissantes là où leurs efforts, leurs aspirations, et leurs possibilités sont le mieux comprises, reçoivent l'approbation et le support de tous. Leur prestige se mesure essentiellement à la valeur de leur personnel, au montant de leurs crédits annuels, à l'importance des dotations et à la qualité des dons de toutes sortes qu'elles attirent. Les Bibliothèques Nationales, dans une plus large mesure qu'on ne le pense généralement, dépendent pour leur continuel enrichissement de la générosité de personnes privées, inspirées par le désir de contribuer au bien public.

En addition à ses fonctions générales de direction, l'administration d'une Bibliothèque Nationale est chargée de maintenir de bonnes relations: avec les autres services du gouvernement, avec les Académies et les Instituts, avec les associations professionnelles, avec les Universités et les Ecoles d'Enseignement Supérieur: avec les collectionneurs et les experts, avec les hommes d'Etat et les hommes de savoir, avec les hommes d'affaires et les philanthropes, avec les savants et les techniciens, avec les auteurs et leurs éditeurs, avec les personnalités éminentes et le citoyen anonyme, avec la profession. Car il semble être de règle que là où les Bibliothèques Nationales prospèrent, leurs activités s'identifient, sont associées aux intérêts de groupes aussi nombreux que divers.

Toutes les Bibliothèques Nationales n'occupent pas la même position dans le système que constitue l'ensemble des bibliothèques de leur pays. Certaines peuvent être tout à fait indépendantes ou en dehors du système: d'autres sont chargées par la loi de responsabilités bien déterminées en même temps que d'un rôle de premier plan: d'autres encore exercent une autorité mal définie, et seulement d'un commun accord. Il n'est peut-être pas de Bibliothèque Nationale qui soit tout à fait à l'abri de la concurrence, de la menace possible que repré-

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sentent les bibliothèques rivales, et dans l'ensemble, c'est là une situation salubre pour les Bibliothèques Nationales. Cette compétition les garde vivantes et alertes: elle les oblige à donner les raisons qui justifient leur maintien: elle appelle leur attention sur les problèmes contemporains: elle les incite à ne pas s'abandonner à la routine.

Mais quelle que soit leur place dans le système national, nous avons l'encourageante preuve que, dans bien des parties du monde, les travaux des Bibliothèques Nationales et ceux entrepris par les autres bibliothèques se complètent. Non seulement pour elle-même, mais, aussi pour ces autres bibliothèques, la Bibliothèque Nationale imagine, développe et perfectionne les techniques qui serviront de modèles, encourage leur adoption par tous. Elle établit, publie et diffuse les règles d'une technique efficace. Elle remplit les fonctions d'un centre pour l'établissement de catalogues, imprimant des cartes qu'elle met à la disposition de toutes les autres institutions. Qu'elle en soit à l'origine ou qu'elle y prenne part à titre de simple partenaire, partenaire vivement intéressé, la Bibliothèque Nationale participe à tous les importants travaux bibliographiques entrepris en coopération, dans l'intérêt général. Précisément parce qu'elles sont nationales, les Bibliothèques Nationales préparent des catalogues collectifs des livres et toutes autres publications utiles à la Recherche. Elles peuvent ainsi aisément découvrir les ouvrages rares ou peu répandus et les rendre accessibles aux érudits, servant de "clearinghouse" pour les prêts interbibliothèques. Les catalogues collectifs leur permettent aussi d'évaluer les ressources des différentes bibliothèques du pays, de découvrir leurs insuffisances, d'établir un programme d'acquisitions qui sera exécuté en commun et économiquement pour remédier à ces insuffisances. Les informations fournies par ces catalogues collectifs permettent de réduire au minimum les double-emplois inutiles et coûteux. Les catalogues collectifs non seulement entraînent l'amélioration des collections de la nation dans leur ensemble: ils fournissent à la Bibliothèque Nationale un argument en faveur d'une politique de modération, et même de frugalité, en faveur aussi d'une fusion plus étroite de ses objectifs avec ceux des autres institutions, même si les liens officiels qui les unissent sont des plus ténus.

Il en résulte qu'une Bibliothèque Nationale est une Bibliothèque des Bibliothèques, et cet aspect de ses activités n'est pas un des moins importants. Elle leur fait don de ces publications qu'elle reçoit en superflu. Elle entreprend les études et les enquêtes que ces autres Bibliothèques ne pourraient tenter à elles seules et partage avec elles ses découvertes. Elle est leur défenseur et leur porte-paroles. Chaque

bibliothèque peut faire appel librement à son expérience, aux vastes ressources de ses nombreux départements spécialisés. Elle n'est ni leur maître, ni leur servante, Elle est part d'un ensemble.

Actuellement les Bibliothèques Nationales s'intéressent très vivement aux "accessoires." Elles essayent des appareils de toutes sortes, destinés à simplifier leurs opérations techniques et leurs travaux bibliographiques. Peut-être "l'Age des Bibliothèques Mécanisées" approche-t-il. Certains pensent peut-être que le besoin d'un intermédiaire humain, un jour, disparaîtra et que les bibliothécaires seront remplacés par des machines intuitives, nourries de littérature. Nous n'avons d'aucune manière l'intention de rabattre l'enthousiasme général: il est inévitable et contagieux: il peut conduire à des améliorations pratiques et amener d'heureuses conséquences. Le pis que nous puissions dire de cet engouement, de cette mode: ils peuvent avec grand dommage détourner notre attention de problèmes plus urgents. Il est actuellement trop tôt pour porter un jugement valable, mais cette "tendance" ne peut être ignorée.

De nombreuses Bibliothèques ont installé ou se proposent d'installer des services photographiques bien équipés. Ces services permettront de remplacer le prêt de textes rares par le prêt de reproductions, de coût peu élevé. Lorsque la plus grande partie du texte doit être reproduite, le moyen utilisé est le micro-film. Le micro-film a plusieurs avantages: il est relativement peu cher: il se conserve de façon satisfaisante lorsqu'il a été soigneusement fait: et pour la plupart des bibliothèques qui en font l'achat, l'arrangement des micro-films sur les rayons ne présente pas de difficultés. Les reproductions sur micro-film représentent actuellement, en nombre, une large part des collections des Bibliothèques Nationales, et des salles de lecture spéciales, avec projecteur et tout autre matériel nécessaire, ont été aménagées pour ceux qui désirent les étudier.

Nous ne pouvons dire que le micro-film soit apprécié unanimement, mais son utilisation est généralement considérée, "faute de mieux." Pour les séries peu souvent et brièvement consultées, l'usage n'en est généralement pas critiqué: c'est un moyen de reproduire et de conserver les journaux qui sont imprimés sur un papier peu résistant. Il peut être utilisé à peu de frais pour faire des copies destinées à l'usage courant. Il peut, quand cela s'avère nécessaire ou pratique, être rendu plus facilement lisible, soit par agrandissement sur un écran, soit par agrandissement sur papier.

Mais outre le micro-film, il est maintenant possible d'acquérir auprès de maisons commerciales des reproductions de livres et autres

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publications obtenues par divers moyens micro-photographiques. Ces reproductions constituent un remarquable ensemble de sous-publications. Leur format particulier ne crée pas de problème spécial en ce qui concerne leur rangement, mais le fait que chaque type de reproduction nécessite l'usage d'un projecteur différent, ce qui en soi constitue une mise de fonds d'importance, en limite l'usage. Les années à venir diront comment le problème sera résolu par les Bibliothèques Nationales, mais il est possible que, en accord avec les autres bibliothèques, elles puissent agir et agiront pour réduire cette multiplicité.

Aucune Bibliothèque Nationale, à vrai dire aucune bibliothèque, ne peut plus que ses ressources financières ne permettent. C'est là énoncer une évidence, mais c'est aussi expliquer pourquoi il est si encourageant d'apprendre que les budgets de nombreuses Bibliothèques Nationales ont été augmentés au cours des dix années qui ont suivi la deuxième guerre mondiale. Il est extrêmement douteux, cependant, que ces budgets soient partout suffisants. Jusqu'à ce qu'ils le soient, les Bibliothèques Nationales ne pourront transformer en réalités toutes leurs possibilités et permettre au public de bénéficier au maximum des avantages qu'elles offrent. Jusque là, elles devront tromper l'attente de ceux qui sont ignorants de leur réelle situation et se contenter de compromis.

La situation des plus anciennes et des plus importantes des Bibliothèques Nationales est peut-être particulière. Leur gloire est la gloire d'une continuité. Elles ont survécu à l'incendie et à l'inondation, aux guerres et aux invasions, à l'indifférence occasionnelle de l'opinion publique, à des directions médiocres. Elles ont atteint la renommée. La valeur de leurs collections est incalculable. Le total des fonds qui leur ont été consacrés, s'il était établi, étonnerait probablement les Bibliothèques Nationales elles-mêmes. Elles sont aujourd'hui administrées avec compétence et imagination. Elles ne sont ni vieilles, ni apathiques. Elles ont atteint leur maturité. Elles sont le produit de leur propre tradition, de leurs pratiques, de leur expérience, de leurs réalisations, de leurs présentes préoccupations. Elles sont dignes d'envie et d'admiration.

Mais leur activité est-elle limitée? Les réponses à cette question seront peut-être ésotériques, métaphysiques, délicatement subtiles, la question n'en reste pas moins posée. Les Bibliothèques Nationales ont-elles donné de précieux gages au destin? Les plus anciennes et les plus importantes des Bibliothèques Nationales, par exemple sont-elles peu disposées à accroître leurs activités? Très évidemment non, car ainsi que nous l'avons dit plus haut, nombre d'entre elles ont assumé

et continuent d'assumer de nouvelles fonctions. Mais se pourrait-il que ces nouvelles fonctions ne soient que le prolongement ou le développement de ces travaux qui dérivent de leur nature même? Se pourrait-il, en d'autres termes, qu'elles ne soient que la réalisation de ces objectifs que les Bibliothèques Nationales n'avaient pu atteindre jusqu'alors et qui leur ont été rendus accessibles seulement récemment?

Les plus anciennes parmi les Bibliothèques Nationales sont-elles opposées à toute innovation? L'évidence semblerait le nier. Peut-être alors serait-il plus équitable de nous demander si leurs hésitations ne sont pas plutôt causées seulement par la crainte d'un changement radical de leurs activités et de leurs préoccupations.

Cela semblerait une explication raisonnable. Car cette politique, si elle leur était imposée, pourrait signifier le désaveu des méthodes qui ont fait leur grandeur, la dilapidation d'un investissement national, l'abandon de tout ce qu'elles ont accompli et qu'elles chérissent. Il se peut que les plus anciennes et les plus importantes des Bibliothèques Nationales aient une vitesse acquise qui les pousse en avant, et leur permet encore de s'agrandir, mais sans cet élément magique qui les ferait se transformer elles-mêmes. Peut-être sont-elles limitées aux formes que le temps a établie pour elles.

Mais, dans certains cas, d'anciennes et importantes Bibliothèques Nationales ont permis par défaut, ou par impuissance, ou par abandon forcé ou par consentement inconscient que leur rôle et leurs fonctions de Bibliothèque Nationale soient confiés à des institutions nouvelles et distinctes. Ces institutions ne sont pas toujours complètement indépendantes. Fréquemment les Bibliothèques Nationales sont représentées dans leurs conseils d'administration où elles peuvent exercer quelque influence et assurer une meilleure coopération. Mais quels sont les buts que servent cet abandon de responsabilités et cette dispersion d'autorité?

Il est aussi parfaitement clair que les plus anciennes et les plus importantes des Bibliothèques Nationales sont des centres de premier ordre pour la Recherche, le meilleur outil à la disposition des érudits, mais leur organisation permet-elle dans tous les cas un service bibliographique effectif, toujours prêt à recevoir les requêtes? Si la réponse à cette question est affirmative, comment se fait-il que si souvent les demandes de bibliographie doivent être adressées à des bibliothèques spécialisées ou à des bureaux d'information? Ce qui semblerait être très évidemment le cas dans le domaine des sciences naturelles et appliquées. Peut-être l'importance des collections de ces Bibliothèques

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Nationales et des considérations à la fois d'ordre pratique et budgétaire s'opposent-elles à une classification très différenciée et à l'analyse des textes qui sont essentiels aux expériences de chaque jour, au laboratoire ou au banc d'essais.

Les Bibliothèques Nationales seront peut-être, dans l'avenir, amenées à organiser leurs collections et leurs services publics sur deux plans parallèles mais bien différenciés: les humanités seraient traitées en conformité avec les principes bibliographiques établis, tandis que les ouvrages de sciences naturelles et de technologie seraient traités par les nouvelles méthodes de documentation, plus complexes. S'il n'en n'était pas ainsi, les Bibliothèques Nationales deviendraient les dépositaires de documents utiles seulement aux historiens et aux étudiants du passé et ainsi n'influenceraient plus le présent que par l'exemple.

Il n'est pas impossible cependant que la tendance à la dispersion des fonctions des Bibliothèques Nationales ne s'épuise vite et ne soit suivie par une période de réunification et de réintégration. Les règles de bonne administration sembleraient le demander. De plus, cette dispersion sera presque certainement arrêtée par l'amélioration et la réfection des locaux. Quelques Bibliothèques Nationales ont récemment terminé la construction de nouveaux bâtiments: dans d'autres cas, de nouvelles construction sont en cours: dans d'autres cas encore, les plans de nouveaux bâtiments sont à l'étude. Ceux-ci seront différents des constructions énormes de la génération précédente, sans vestibules trop ornés, sans "grand escalier." L'architecture moderne qui veut que le bâtiment soit adapté aux fonctions de l'institution qu'il abrite, non seulement remédiera au manque d'espace mais permettra à la Bibliothèque Nationale de remplir celles de ses fonctions et de ses tâches trop longtemps différées ou temporairement abandonnées, faute d'espace et de fonds.

Dans quelques parties du monde, les progrès des Bibliothèques Nationales ont été sérieusement retardés par la continuation de la guerre froide. Les progrès intellectuels et culturels ne peuvent être continus et consistants dans une atmosphère de peur, de suspicion et de désespoir.

Et cependant, ce malheureux et malencontreux affaiblissement des Bibliothèques Nationales est partiellement compensé par le fait que, lors de la création de nouveaux Etats, l'établissement d'une Bibliothèque Nationale a été l'un des premiers objectifs du gouvernement. Ceci témoigne, d'une façon convaincante, de la considération avec laquelle sont regardées les réalisations de leurs aînées à travers le monde. De plus, là où la profession de Bibliothécaire n'a pas atteint

son complet développement, des écoles de Bibliothécaires ont été créées, et placées, directement ou indirectement, sous le patronage des Bibliothèques Nationales. Il n'est pas rare que les Bibliothèques Nationales fournissent aux Associations Professionnelles de Bibliothécaires les locaux qui leur sont nécessaires ainsi que l'aide de secrétaires.

Dans le plus grand nombre des cas, le personnel des Bibliothèques Nationales appartient au cadre des fonctionnaires. Il a été parfois difficile d'obtenir des fonctionnaires chargés du reclassement de la Fonction Publique que les Bibliothécaires soient classés dans les catégories correspondant à leurs qualifications professionnelles et reçoivent les salaires appropriés. Mais un effort a été fait et se poursuit en ce sens. Les travaux d'une Bibliothèque Nationale, qui comprend de nombreux départements spécialisés, ne peuvent être confiés qu'à des spécialistes dont la formation peut se comparer à celle des membres de l'Enseignement supérieur. En plus de ces membres de leur personnel qui ont acquis les connaissances techniques requises pour la préparation d'un catalogue, pour la classification, pour le bon fonctionnement d'un service d'acquisitions, pour l'établissement de bibliographies, les Bibliothèques Nationales doivent faire appel à la collaboration d'excellents musicologues, géographes, savants, archivistes, juristes, linguistes, et autres érudits, dans les disciplines les plus diverses. Ceux-ci doivent être capables, non seulement d'avoir une connaissance approfondie de la collection, mais aussi de la faire connaître, d'en faciliter l'accès et l'utilisation. Que les Bibliothèques Nationales aient réussi à s'attacher la collaboration de représentants du monde érudit, et ce en si grand nombre, est une nouvelle preuve des compensations intangibles et impondérables, mais sensibles et vivifiantes qu'elles offrent.

Il se peut que le public prenne de plus en plus conscience des possibilités et des ressources des Bibliothèques Nationales. Certainement les Bibliothèques Nationales elles-mêmes ont, plus que jamais, le sentiment qu'elles peuvent contribuer d'une façon positive à la vie nationale. Elles ne se dérobent plus à la publicité et ne dédaignent pas la popularité. Au contraire, elles leur sont allègrement ouvertes. Il doit être bien clair cependant que ce souci ne naît pas d'une crainte égoïste, d'un appel insistant à la charité ou encore d'instincts de domination, mais d'un sens nouveau et aiguisé des devoirs qui s'attachent au second de leurs privilèges. Leur premier privilège est d'assurer la conservation des documents du passé pour les temps futurs. Le second de leurs privilèges est de justifier cette conservation par son utilité, par la meilleure compréhension qu'elle permet. Ceci

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peut exiger, et souvent exige, un équilibre délicat et un détachement rare, car ni la conservation, ni l'utilisation, ne peuvent s'exclure l'une l'autre. La réalisation de ce fait est radicale et révolutionnaire.

Tandis que l'accent était jadis placé surtout sur la doctrine de l'immobilité, de la bibliothèque prison ou caveau, les Bibliothèques Nationales sont maintenant ouvertes au monde extérieur. Elles se sont alliées à l'actualité. Elles prennent un risque sur le présent. Elles exposent leurs biens aux risques des accidents de transport et les envoient à titre de prêt dans des contrées lointaines où elles ne peuvent contrôler l'usage qui en est fait. Elles préparent des expositions à la fois instructives et attrayantes et les font circuler. Elles ouvrent leurs salles aux conférences et aux concerts: et il n'est pas nécessaire que le sujet de ces conférences et la musique choisie pour ces concerts soient obscurs, ou recherchés, ou inaccessibles à l'homme moyen. Elles publient des bulletins, des bibliographies, des reproductions, des textes annotés. Les Bibliothèques Nationales du monde libre défendent la liberté de questionner, la liberté d'informer. Elles sont sur le qui-vive, prêtes à résister et à combattre les forces qui fermeraient à l'humanité l'accès à la somme des connaissances accumulées par les hommes au prix de tant d'efforts.

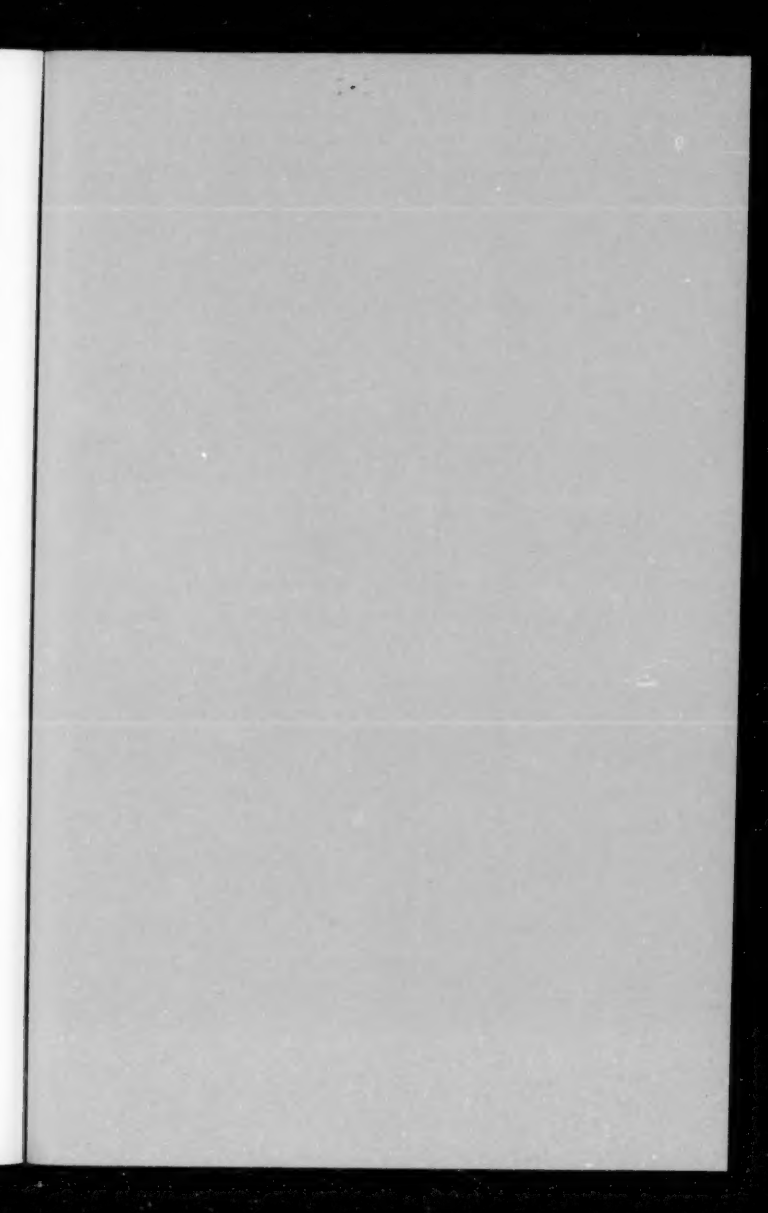
Naturellement, les Bibliothèques Nationales servent la politique nationale, en matière d'éducation, de recherche, et dans une certaine mesure, mal définie et inexprimée, en matière de politique extérieure. Car les Bibliothèques Nationales ne sont pas que des rébarbatifs monuments commémoratifs, ou des belles architectures, ou des chasses révérees, que les visiteurs d'au delà les frontières regardent avec approbation ou désapprobation. Les Bibliothèques Nationales sont des centres de recherche pour les savants étrangers. C'est de la vérité qu'ils sont en quête. Quand une Bibliothèque Nationale possède la vérité et la fait connaître, elle a rempli son but, assuré son pouvoir.

Ce fait est important car, instrument d'une politique nationale, la Bibliothèque Nationale pourrait être chargée de déformer, de dissimuler, de déguiser, d'avilir et même de détruire la vérité. Une imagination Orwellienne pourrait conduire les Bibliothèques Nationales à l'infamie, à l'ավիւսսսսսսսսսսս.

Fort heureusement, les Bibliothèques Nationales des pays de l'Ouest ont créé une Commission des Bibliothèques Nationales, discutent en commun de leurs problèmes, ont des rapports constants, échangent parfois leur personnel. Leurs Directeurs sont en termes amicaux, échangent officiellement des visites. Ils se rencontrent aux congrès de l'I.F.L.A., de la F.I.D. et de l'U.N.E.S.C.O. où ils représentent leurs

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pays. Ils ont des projets communs. Ils travaillent ensemble à la cause du copyright international. Ils adoptent des standards internationaux. Ensemble, ils découvrent la solution de leurs problèmes. Ils discutent de leurs méthodes, échangent des conseils. Nous assistons aux débuts d'une confrérie basée sur la confiance, l'éminence et le courage: confrérie qui s'est dédiée à l'ombre miroitante d'une image que, peut-être, nous verrons un jour apparaître, qui doit apparaître, apparition trop longtemps attendue et trop longtemps retardée, portant en elle une promesse, une ardeur exigeant. Les Bibliothécaires des Bibliothèques Nationales ont l'enthousiasme: le reste est à la Paix.



Library Trends

Forthcoming numbers are as follows:

October, 1955, *Special Materials and Services*. Editor: Andrew H. Horn, Librarian, University of North Carolina.

January, 1956, *Conservation of Library Materials*. Editor, Maurice F. Tauber, Professor of Library Service, Columbia University.

April, 1956, *State Libraries*. Editor, Paxton Price, State Librarian, Missouri State Library.

The numbers of LIBRARY TRENDS issued prior to the present one dealt successively with college and university libraries, special libraries, school libraries, public libraries, libraries of the United States government, cataloging and classification, scientific management in libraries, the availability of library research materials, personnel administration, services to readers, library associations in the United States and British Commonwealth and acquisitions.

